



THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Warm and sunny (45p) 40p



IN THE TABLOID

TALKING ABOUT A GENERATION



NEWS, PAGE 13

MAY BALL MADNESS

Tories at war as polls close

Anthony Bevins
R and Colin Brown

The Tories started warring even before the polling stations had closed last night, with leadership candidates jockeying for position to succeed John Major.

Clearly anticipating a Tory defeat, leading Eurosceptics accuse Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, of sabotaging the Conservative election campaign by refusing to allow Mr Major to veto early entry into the single European currency.

Across Whitehall, ministerial special advisers were packing

eager to appear over the weekend, with an implicit nudge-and-wink hint that he would be in the running for the succession. Cabinet contenders had already been beaten to the starting gate by John Redwood, the one man unconstrained by the niceties of waiting for the result. He has already been booked to appear on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One* programme today, and he is scheduled to star on London Weekend Television's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme on Sunday, to "discuss the lessons for the Conservative Party".

According to Labour sources, the biggest lesson of the campaign was the way in which the party's machine "ran Central Office ragged" at every turn, in spite of the fact that they had received a leaked copy of Labour's "war book" battle plans.

One senior Labour source said he suspected that the Tories had under-played their strongest card - the economy - because they were wary of promoting Kenneth Clarke, for fear of provoking a Euro-sceptic backlash.

The Tory pro-Europeans are ready to launch a fight-back today with Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, poised to go the rounds of the broadcasting studios to issue a point-by-point answer to the charges from the Euro-sceptics.

"The Eurosceptics are being complete idiots if they think Europe was the issue which cost us the election," said a senior Cabinet source. "There were over 200 candidates who fought the election on a commitment to rule out the single currency. It was made pretty clear to anyone wanting to cast their vote what the nature of the Tory party would be."

But Lord Tebbit, the former chairman of the party, was the first openly to put the boot into Mr Major for refusing to fight



Devotion to democracy: Sisters of the enclosed Benedictine order of Tyburn Convent, Marble Arch, London, queuing to exercise their democratic right yesterday morning. The photograph: Philip Meech

in anticipation of being thrown out of their offices by a Labour victory. One official at the Treasury said: "We are spring cleaning over here."

With yesterday's voting marked by a high early turnout throughout the country during a bright and sunny day, the recent spate of terrorist scares prompted the first appearance of armed police officers at Tony Blair's polling station in Sedgfield, County Durham.

But it was the early moves on the Tory leadership that provided the early indicator of the result. Even before polling opened, at least one Cabinet challenger for the leadership had told broadcasters he was

yesterday reported heavy betting on Mr Portillo and Mr Heseltine for the succession. They are joint 5-2 favourites.

But early contenders could yet be disappointed if Mr Major spurns the advice of close friends and decides that he has a duty to see his party through to a mature and considered

leadership battle in July, or even the autumn. Mr Major's friends argue that having been betrayed by party feuding, he should leave the warring factions to do their worst, and announce his intention to stand down at the earliest opportunity.

Other, calmer voices say rightly - that if he did that, he

would be rewarding the very people who have made his life so difficult as Prime Minister for the past six years.

A precipitate resignation and leadership contest would probably leave the party in the hands of the right-wing Eurosceptics and, possibly, trigger a mass defection by pro-Euro-

pean MPs. Delay would help to calm the excitement. It would give new MPs time to settle down, think about the future of the party, and mobilise support for a contender who could hold the party together. That could even revive the possibility of a joint Heseltine-Portillo ticket.

With brisk polling reported

from around the country, Mr Major said after he had voted in his Huntingdon constituency that the 30-per-cent local turnout was "way above what we'd normally expect." He said it was "a very good omen for democracy when you've got weather like this, on polling day and what looks like a high turn-out."

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MPs? Philistines all, says Hockney

David Lister
and Andrew Marr

David Hockney, our best known living artist, last night warned that Britain does not need a government of "bossy prefects," and slyly suggested that Jack Straw should make legalising marijuana a priority.

"Many more of my friends have died from alcohol than drugs," said the 59-year-old artist looking unusually boyish in a knitted green waistcoat. But I bet Jack Straw will be serving drinks tonight. "I would prefer a joint really. What am I imposed to say?"

Hockney was speaking to *The Independent* at one of the most enjoyable occasions on election night: it was the opening of his first commercial exhibition in London for 15 years; and with the light flooding in through the glazed roof of the gallery onto his vibrant paintings

of flowers, he briefly forsook contemporaries such as Kitagawa Utamaro, Sir Anthony Caro and Allen Jones, to tell us his personal manifesto for change.

He said he had only voted once in his life, for Harold Wilson, and an era that ushered in libertarianism, homosexual law reform and artistic innovation. He hoped, but did not expect, to see again a government encouraging such things. "I'm a bit dreading Jack Straw really," he told us. "He is about my age and 30 years ago they were saying well, you can't legalise marijuana, they don't know what they're talking about but it has passed now they do."

Hockney recently said: "Parliament are philistines; people who are not concerned with beauty, nor concerned with the things I am." Last night he added: "There's so much energy and creativity about but it has to be supported. Yet on an of-



Flower power: David Hockney at the opening of his first commercial exhibition in London for 15 years. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

QUICKLY



Murderer deported
"Mad Dog" McCafferty (above), the multiple murderer who has been deported from Australia after spending a total of 23 years in jail, is due to arrive in Britain today. Page 16

£300,000 damages
Sandra Hurley, the mother of a Down's Syndrome child who was refused a screening test to receive £300,000 damages following an out-of-court settlement of her negligence claim. Page 5

Refugees wait
United Nations agencies are struggling to clear a backlog of some 2,000 Rwandan refugees waiting to be airlifted home from Zaire. Page 16

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news

significant shorts

Maze prison protest set to end after crisis talks

The loyalist protest at the Maze prison is to end after a breakthrough during crisis meetings between loyalist politicians and Northern Ireland security officials yesterday.

After nearly an hour of talks at Stormont Castle, representatives from the Ulster Democratic Party (UDP), which has close links to UDA paramilitaries at the centre of the protests, emerged to say there were signs the dispute could be resolved. Two earlier meetings had ended without agreement.

The dispute had started on Tuesday after prison officers introduced new security measures for all prisoners in the aftermath of the discovery of a Republican escape tunnel at the Maze. Loyalists refused to co-operate with the planned twice-daily lockdowns for head counts on the grounds they were being penalised for the behaviour of the IRA.

Prison staff were withdrawn from two of the H-shaped blocks involved, family visits were suspended and inmates took to the roofs, burning furniture and papers. The Ulster Freedom Fighters then warned of "a price to be paid" if riot squads were used to take the prison blocks.

Simon Reeve

Man charged over pub murder



A 27-year-old man was yesterday charged with murdering judge's daughter Rachel McGrath, who was stabbed to death as she called to collect her boyfriend from a public house last Friday.

Jobless Nicholas Burton, 27, will appear before magistrates in Stockport, Greater Manchester, today.

Burton, of no fixed address, was remanded in custody yesterday charged with kidnapping 17-year-old college student Debbie van Gerko near her home in Galley, Stockport, the day after 27-year-old Miss McGrath died.

Burton, who was arrested in North Wales on Sunday, is also accused of making death threats and false imprisonment in connection with the alleged kidnapping of Miss van Gerko.

Miss McGrath, of Wimsthorpe, Cheshire, whose father, Brian, 55, is a district judge, was found dead outside the Victoria Tavern in Bramhall, Stockport, after driving there to collect her live-in boyfriend, Kevin Forster, 25, after a night out.

Cabbies pledge help in rapist hunt

A cabbies' leader yesterday pledged "maximum co-operation" with police hunting a taxi driver who raped a 13-year-old girl.

Bob Oddy, general secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association, which oversees the 17,000 cabs and 22,000 drivers operating in London, said the association was considering the possibility that a bogus driver could be involved, adding: "There are hundreds of second-hand taxi cabs in London and it is perfectly possible that the rapist could have got hold of one."

Mr Oddy's pledge came after police appealed for help in the hunt for the driver of a black cab who subjected a 13-year-old girl to a terrifying ordeal, raping her three times while she was on a sightseeing visit to London.

The victim, who comes from Southampton and is now 14, was attacked after being picked up by the black cab in The Strand at about midnight on Sunday, 23 March.

Chaos ahead for drivers in France

Lorry firms are braced for a week of massive disruption to travel in France because of a combination of official restrictions and another protest strike. The AA advised motorists planning a Bank Holiday cross-Channel break to be prepared for possible chaos on Monday, caused by a threatened new blockade.

May Day is a public holiday in France, and under rules introduced at the end of the last year – to appease striking French lorry drivers – no foreign lorries are allowed on the country's roads on Sundays and official holidays. In addition, two French truckers' unions have backed a "day of action" on Monday.



Rick Parfitt: Manager blames cigarettes and diet for heart condition (Photograph: PA)

Rock 'n' roll lifestyle catches up with Status Quo star

Rick Parfitt, the guitarist with the veteran rock band Status Quo, was last night said to be "desperate to get back to work", less than 24 hours after undergoing an emergency quadruple heart bypass operation.

Parfitt, 48, from Teddington, south-west London, was recovering in the intensive care unit at London's Wellington Hospital after a four-hour operation.

A spokesman for the band said: "He is drifting in and out of consciousness but he has been talking to nurses. He's desperate to get back to work but surgeons say he will have to wait until 1 August."

The musician was admitted to hospital after complaining of chest pains. Extensive tests revealed a narrowing of arteries to his heart, and his surgeon recommended immediate surgery. He is expected to make a full recovery but will remain in intensive care until this evening.

His manager, David Walker, arrived at the hospital in St John's Wood yesterday afternoon. He said Parfitt had the first twinges of pain on Sunday, but it was not until Tuesday, after he had finished a day's recording that he contacted his Harley Street doctor.

"Rick woke up in a state of shock. He was all wired

up and drugged up but he still had a smile in his eyes," said Mr Walker. "He had shown no signs of heart problems during the extensive tour in which we covered between 40,000 and 50,000 miles. He had only complained about the usual things, such as tiredness."

"He went to his doctor, who had experienced similar symptoms and had the tenacity to recognise that Rick would need thorough tests."

"I was told on the phone that the tests would be a safety precaution, but then I got a message from his surgeon saying that unless he went under the knife immediately, it could be too late."

Mr Walker added: "We have no idea what caused this, after all he keeps fit. The show itself is a keep-fit show, I guess it was to do with smoking and a bad diet, though I tried to get him to use patches to get him off the cigarettes."

The operation has caused the immediate cancellation of all Status Quo concerts for May, June and July. The band was due to undertake a series of 21 European and festival appearances this summer, playing to more than 1 million fans.

Last year Parfitt crashed his Porsche and was banned from driving for 18 months.

Dame Shirley's £31m fight moves to High Court

The decision to impose a £31.6m surcharge on Dame Shirley Porter and five former colleagues in the Westminster City Council "homes for votes" affair will reach the High Court in October.

The former Tory council leader, who has indicated she wishes to submit fresh evidence, was one of those directed yesterday to be available for cross examination at a six-week appeal to begin on 2 October. Her QC asked the three senior judges in the case to disregard the "horridly" publicity surrounding it.

Three Westminster councillors and three officials, including Dame Shirley, who now lives in Israel, were accused by the district auditor, John Magill, of "wilful misconduct" and "disgraceful and improper gerrymandering" between 1987 and 1989.

In May last year he made them jointly and severally liable to repay the £31.6m estimated to have been spent by the council moving council tenants from marginal wards and selling their homes cheaply to people who were more likely to vote Conservative, in an effort to fix election results.

Lawyers for Dame Shirley and her former colleagues will argue in court that the auditor's methods of procedure and conclusions were fundamentally flawed and the record surcharge was unfair.

Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Latham and Mr Justice Keene, laid

down a timetable for the hearing and gave directions on the extent to which fresh evidence would be admissible before them.

Lord Justice Rose said it would be for the appellants to open the case and seek to establish that there was "something amiss" with the auditor's decision. If they overcame that hurdle, it would be for the auditor to prove they were guilty of wilful misconduct.

Other appellants are: former deputy leader David Weeks; former housing chairman Peter Hartley; former managing director Bill Phillips; and Graham England, former director of housing. Mr England's former assistant Paul Phillips, who has undergone treatment for depression, has had his appeal stayed until further order. The surcharge is suspended pending the High Court challenge.

Peter Pan and the princess

Sir James "JM" Barrie, author of Peter Pan, was revealed yesterday to have undertaken an unusual royal collaboration.

When Princess Margaret unveiled a plaque commemorating the 85th anniversary of Peter Pan's statue in Kensington Gardens, she recalled how she was befriended, at the age of three, by the celebrated writer.

Sir James was so impressed with the young princess that he used her words in a play and paid her 14 newly minted pennies by way of royalties.

Princess Margaret explained how Sir James sat next to her at her third birthday party and later wrote a description of their meeting for Cynthia Asquith's book *The King's Daughters*.

He said: "Some of her presents were on the table, simple things that might have come from the shopkeeper's shop, but she was in a frenzy of glee over them, especially about one to which she had given the place of honour by her plate.

"I said to her as one astounded, 'Is that

really your very own?' and she saw how I envied her and immediately placed it between us with the words 'It is yours and mine'."

Soon after the party, the princess heard someone speak of him, and remarked: "I know that man. He is my greatest friend, and I am his greatest friend."

Barrie incorporated the phrases in his last play, *The Boy David*, and when he next met the Princess, agreed that, as a collaborator in the production, she would receive a penny for each performance.

The play closed after a short run and Sir James assumed Margaret had forgotten his promise. However, in 1937, her father, George VI, wrote Barrie a playful reminder that, if he did not pay up, he would hear from the royal solicitors.

So the writer drew up a formal agreement to pay, which still exists in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle. It was the last thing Barrie wrote. He died on 19 June, 1937.

briefing

EVOLUTION

Study of lizards proves Darwin was right

Scientists believe they have proved Charles Darwin was right by setting lizards on different evolutionary paths and watching the results. Darwin argued in *The Origin of the Species* that when organisms colonise a new territory they adapt to its conditions and eventually evolve into a new species.

The first observable evidence that this happens has come from an experiment in which Anolis lizards were introduced to a group of Bahamian islands. Returning to the islands 14 years later, the scientists, led by Dr Jonathan Losos from Washington University, Missouri, found that the island lizards had changed to suit the vegetation of their new environment.

They had developed much shorter hind limbs and become lighter to help them perch on the thinner branches and twigs found on the islands. They also had wider toe-pads than lizards living in their natural home on the island of Staniel Cay.

Science journal *Nature*, which published the results today, said: "This may be among the most important work in evolutionary studies since Darwin studied the diversity of finches on the Galapagos Islands during the voyage of the Beagle."

HEALTH

Irish ignoring dangers of sun

Sun-loving Irish people forget or ignore the long-term risks of skin cancer when they get the opportunity to go out and get a tan, a psychologist warned yesterday. Dr Anne-Marie McMahon said: "The trouble with the Irish is that we have sun-loving gregarious personalities, but sensitive Nordic skin. And our climate is so unpredictable we rush out with a sense of joy when we see the sun."



She was speaking after a survey showed that the number of Irish people who do not take any precautions to protect themselves from the risk of skin cancer when they go sunbathing had doubled from 11 per cent last year to 22 per cent this year.

Only 6 per cent of Irish sun-lovers limited the time they spend in the sun – a 16 per cent drop on the number of people who said they took precautions in the same survey last year.

CHURCH

A bleak view from the vicarage

Vicars' wives think their husbands are overworked and underpaid, according to a new survey. The study of more than 100 vicars' spouses revealed the modern-day pressures on male and female priests and their families.

It concluded that most vicars work an average of more than 60 hours a week, with 25 per cent of wives believing their family relationships suffered because of the clergy workload. In addition, many wives say although they can meet day-to-day needs but cannot afford extras such as holidays or new appliances.

The survey of more than 100 ecclesiastical spouses was carried out by Susan Avis, whose husband, Paul Avis who is sub Dean of Exeter Cathedral and vicar of Stoke Canon near Exeter, Devon.

Vicars are awarded an annual stipend of around £14,500, no matter how long they have served in the post. However, they do not benefit from the free home and a non-contributory pension, which brings the package nearer to £20,000 a year.

Mrs Avis said: "The survey may give clergy spouses the chance to let off steam."

"But equally noteworthy were respondents who nonetheless counted blessings and were endeavouring to accept their difficulties cheerfully as part of their calling to follow Christ."

The Archdeacon of Exeter, the Venerable Tony Tremlett, said: "People do not go into the Church because of the money. It is not an income which allows any luxury. The clergy is expected to be all things to all people. Clearly vicars cannot do everything."

TRANSPORT

Scotland offers life in the fast lane

If you want to avoid life in the slow lane and dodge daily traffic jams, then the Scottish Borders and East Anglia are the best places to live and work, new research has revealed.

Around 70 per cent of British motorists spend up to 30 minutes stuck in a traffic jam during an average working day, but a drive to work in the Borders and East Anglia is much easier with 41 per cent and 40 per cent of motorists respectively avoiding a jam altogether.

That compares with only 3 per cent in Lancashire, 7 per cent in the central region of England and 8 per cent of drivers in Yorkshire who manage to dodge daily hold-ups.

And if you ever want to get stuck in the slow lane then the Midlands, which includes the M6 and Spaghetti Junction, is the place to head for.

Ninety per cent of motorists interviewed for the research, sponsored by breakdown service Antonsaltonal Rescue, are held up in traffic jams every day by anything up to two hours – although for most, the average daily hold-up is no more than 15 minutes.

SOCIETY

King of the squeegee rides again

The world window-cleaning record was reclaimed by its former holder, Terry Burrows, yesterday. He cut nearly a quarter of a second from his previous best as he cleaned three 45-inch-square windows in 18.46 seconds at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham.

Mr Burrows, 41, from South Ockendon, Essex, used a bucket of soapy water, a 14-inch applicator and a 12in squeegee blade.

Rules stipulate that the judge may add half-second penalties if any sections of the three panes are not wiped first or remain wet at the finish. The widow ledge also has to be wiped clean.

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PROBABLY THE CHEAPEST DIG

My brief encounters of a lasting kind on road to the House

Yvette Cooper, Independent journalist and prospective MP, describes her baptism of fire in pursuit of a seat

"This lady wants your mum and dad to vote for her". The words are clearly and brightly pronounced. "She's going to be..." the headmaster checks himself. "She wants to be our MP. Does any one know what MP stands for? Member of Parliament..." Three or four high-pitched voices finish the word for him: "Parliament." "What do Members of Parliament do?" continues the headmaster. A child at the front pipes up: "They help people."

"That's right," responds the head, while I reel from the direct hit. Cynicism, disillusion and hostility: all these I am braced for, but a burst of straightforward trust knocks me between the eyes. Recovering composure, I try a question myself: "Can anyone name the political parties?"

Eight hands pump up into the air. Shoulders and bodies straining to catch up with them. Perhaps the question was too easy. "Labour," heans the first child I nod at, and the other seven hands rise. There is a puzzled pause. "Any other parties?" prompts the class teacher from the corner. Apparently not - not as far as these 32 Pontefract six-year-olds are concerned, anyway. Even after another pause, and a lot more encouragement, the best they can do is one tentative suggestion from a girl at the back: "New Labour, Miss?" I suppress a grin, and we move on to the next classroom.

Here in Pontefract and Castleford, the constituency that selected me as its Labour candidate just over three weeks ago, Conservative voters don't crop up much on the campaign trail. Our job here is not to persuade wavering, but to get the Labour vote out. My task, as a new face, is that I am

working hard and here to stay.

Lamphets and posters have been printed and parcellled for sending out to voters and supporters. Days are parcellled up and distributed to hand

ed activists and councellors in every corner of the constituency a package of time to fill for me with local visits and events.

On day one I visited two factories, a technical college, a day centre for the elderly and a line-dancing class. Day two took me through four schools, three pensioners groups, a working-men's club and a harber's. I have kicked off for Castleford Rugby League and called the first line of bingo at the huge Gala Bingo Hall.

At every stage I am chaperoned by dark suits - predominantly burly men, they be councillors, local union activists, or party organisers. Jacked and rosetted, they are lethal with a roll of stickers. The protective warmth and enthusiasm with which they watch out for my welfare is astonishing - especially given that we have been talking to them properly.

It could have been a dismal encounter, listening to tales of abuse, drugs and woe. But the head teacher and the governors were brimming with determination and optimism about what they could achieve, not least through the parenting classes and literacy classes they were putting on for local mums and dads.

Leaping swiftly forward through the lifecycle, we pass junior schools and comprehensives. Somewhere along the way, I remember to eat; but not often and not much.

Brigid Jones would be proud of me: Cigarettes: none (apart from a bit of passive smoking at the working-men's club.) Alcohol: 4 units.

Nor is there any way to stick to soft and soppy tasks like kissing babies. Campaigning for votes means entering, however briefly, the lives of the people you told me to represent.

Some of those lives aren't easy. At the first infants' school I visited, the head teacher told me the first task

for the caretaker each morning was to sweep the used needles from the playground. Over half the children arriving in the nursery class have speech problems, because - a party member suggested - no one at home has been talking to them properly.

Next stop, the world of work: pits as miners finish their shift, a clothing factory where rows of women stitch and snip, several chemical factories, and a dark and clanking glass factory. At the pensioners' day centre where we stop for tea, one

Calories; not enough. Hands shake; en: 70, v good.

Next stop, the world of work: pits as miners finish their shift, a clothing factory where rows of women stitch and snip, several chemical factories, and a dark and clanking glass factory. At the pensioners' day centre where we stop for tea, one

politicians are the same; none of them have done anything about that bit of wasteland round the back of the home; who do I think I am, coming in from outside; why won't anyone raise her pension; and on and on. It is a delicate situation to handle. Weaken under her hostility and the crowd will all sense it and crow.

cr insisted on being carried to the polling station as she was dying. "She never missed a vote. Nothing would stop her. That's how we were taught. Our family fought, you know - for the miners, for the Labour Party. I'll never vote anything else."

This deeply religious attitude to voting is a severe contrast to the glazed eyes of younger voters. One of the final campaign stops is at a youth club in the south of the constituency, where they are holding a mock election. By as I might, I cannot tempt any of the teenagers into talking to me about politics. So we stick to who-fancies-who. The 14-year-old Labour candidate is a bit of a heart-throb, it seems, so that presumably explains his support. But the Socialist Labour candidate has done better, targeting the 11-year-old boys on bikes who are swiftly bribed into sabotaging the other candidates' posters. Be it the teenagers

love-life, or the pensioners' operation, I am amazed at people's willingness to tell politicians their life stories at the touch of a knuckle. And then, on the eve of polling day I am reminded why they do it. A woman we have met briefly in the pub on the way home tells about her severely disabled son, who has become too heavy for her to carry upstairs to the bathroom. But she can't get the help she needs to adapt her house.

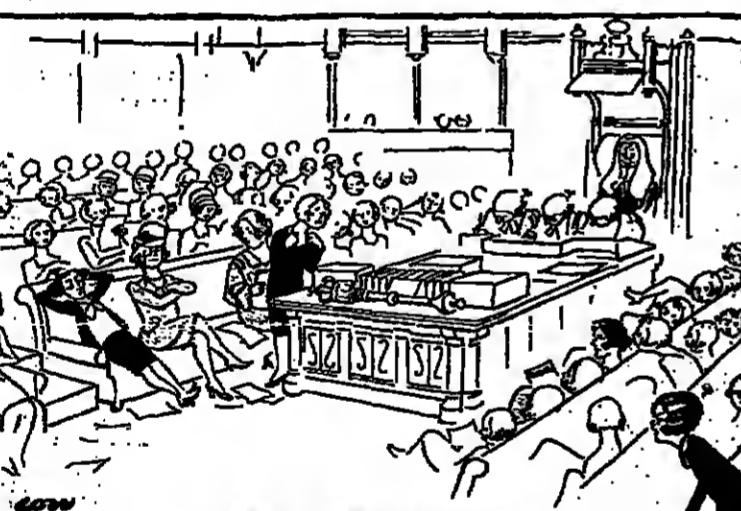
Is there anything, she asks, that I can do? Real-world responsibility drenches me suddenly like a cold shower. I promise to do whatever I can to help, without any idea how much difference an MP can make in a case like this. Labour's policy handbook provides no clues on the matter. This, poking up between the stickers and the handshakes, is the important stuff; as the Pontefract six-year-old told me at the beginning, "helping people".

A burst of straightforward trust knocks me between the eyes

woman is determined to draw blood. She is seething even before I open my mouth. Lips pursed, arms tightly folded, eyes flickering up to the ceiling, she looks like a teenager who is being told off by a teacher.

And she is furious with me or with herself, or with something. Whatever I say she spits back a comment. All

Fight back and they will close ranks and lynch me. Ride it, ever reasonable, and sooner or later the pack turns on their own. By the time we left, Mrs Pursed-Lips had been roundly trounced by everyone in the room and the candidate pronounced a lovely last. One elderly woman explains, as we leave, how her moth-



Sister act: Two of the works on show at the Fawcett Society exhibition, which spans 130 years of campaigning for equal rights for women

Drawn to the truth: Cartoons chart women's battle for equality

Louise Jury

The cartoon dates from 1928. "The Parliament of the future", it says, under a picture of an all-female House. If only, the sisters of the Nineties might reply.

The image is one of 145 in an exhibition drawn together by the Fawcett Society, the equality campaigners, spanning 130 years, which opens today. The aim of Fawcett's *Punny Girls - Cartooning for Equality* was to show through the cartoons women's battle for equal rights. But when they came up with the idea, the society had no idea whether that would be feasible.

Diane Atkinson, a historian and the show's curator, sifted 5,000 images, from Low, Giles and Mel Calman to Posy Simmonds, to discover it was. Fortunately, though the point of some old jokes was lost in time, others still carried a message. "I think they are quite a good barometer of the issues," Dr Atkinson said. "And I believe I've managed to cover quite a long time span quite economically through these images."

What can be seen is the rise of the Suffragette movement, the changes in attitude after the awarding of the vote to women and the subsequent struggle for equal rights. The subjects are not only politics at Westminster but, in a broader sense, in the workplace and home. A punch cartoon in 1853 was one of the



'Constable, would you mind removing that suffragette from the railings?'

Women on top: Heath, defeated by Thatcher, depicted as a chained Suffragette

cartoon depicting all Suffragettes as ugly they have never been kissed. "It's one of those clichés they recycle all the time - you must be a sad lesbian with a moustache," Dr Atkinson said. Despite the sexism, she said, the exhibition and accompanying book were not anti-male, nor angry and strident. "I'm not a woman who hates men - I am married to one," Sheila Diplock, director of the Fawcett Society, said the cartoons reflected how far women have come and how much was still to be won.

But they also showed feminists had a sense of humour. "I wanted to show that we don't take ourselves seriously all the time. The battles of the sexes is often presented as earnest and hostile. But I'm a great believer in using humour to get people to re-think their ideas."

The date for launching the exhibition, at The Pump House People's History Museum, Manchester, was chosen 18 months ago but could not have been more appropriate. The exhibition goes to Glasgow in July and to London in October.

Mrs Diplock said: "I hope everyone will laugh but come away thinking 'This has been a long hard struggle, and where are we now? Yes, things have changed, but how much?' Then, having thought about it, they'll come and join the Fawcett."

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news

Snowdrop withers but battle to curb guns lives on

Mark Rowe

The Snowdrop Campaign, which started life on an antiquated decorator's trestle table in the numb days that followed the Dunblane massacre, and acted as a potent voice for the anti-gun lobby led by the victims' parents, was finally wound up as the nation went to the polls yesterday.

Launched within weeks of the day – 13 March, 1996 – when Thomas Hamilton shot dead 16 primary school children and their teacher, the campaign took its name from the only spring flower in bloom when the tragedy took place. Its message captured the public mood of disquiet at existing firearms legislation. Later, its co-ordinator,

Ann Pearston, described it as one of the most successful single-issue campaigns ever seen in the UK.

The founders, who organised a petition of more than 750,000 signatures, now plan to give their support to the London-based pressure group, the Gun Control Network, which was set up after the Hungerford massacre in 1987.

Mrs Pearston said recently:

"We feel we have done all we can and now it's time to call it a day. A lot of people picked up a pen and signed our petition, now we'd like them to pick up a pen and join the Gun Control Network to continue the fight."

Snowdrop was started from behind an old decorator's table in Stirling, when Mrs Pearston,



Jacqueline Walsh and Rosemary Hunter invited people to sign a petition calling for a ban on the private ownership of handguns.

Mrs Pearston, who did not suffer any personal tragedy at Dunblane, got involved because she had lived for 18 months in the city.

Another person involved in the campaign was Dr Mick North. The university lecturer

lost his five-year-old daughter Sophie, his only child, in the tragedy. His wife, Barbara, had died of cancer when Sophie was just three.

Dr North, 49, was the first bereaved parent to speak just nine days after his daughter's murder.

Lord Cullen's public inquiry was the first major hurdle facing the families at the end of May 1996. They made their first

public call for a total handgun ban at the end of the inquiry.

It coincided with the Snowdrop Petition, with more than 700,000 signatures, being handed in.

The findings of the Cullen Inquiry last October failed to recommend a total ban on handguns but the Government went further when they banned all private handguns, but only above .22 calibre. After a com-

plete ban was rejected by the Commons, Tony Blair promised that a Labour government would legislate for a total ban on handguns, with a free vote for MPs.

One of the last acts of the Snowdrop campaign was to screen an advert at cinemas across Britain. The 40-second film, which showed a human-shaped target being blown apart by pistol shots, involved a voice-

over by 007 legend Sean Connery.

The Snowdrop campaign also launched an anti-handgun poster last month featuring a blackboard with "ban all handguns" written in chalk in a child's handwriting.

The decision to wind up the Snowdrop campaign follows divisions within the campaign over how long it should continue as a pressure group.

Time to stop: In the wake of the Dunblane massacre, 80 per cent of handguns have been banned. Now, the campaign has served its purpose, says Ann Pearston, a founder.

Photograph: SDR

Countdown to ban

13 March 1996: Thomas Hamilton kills 16 children and their teacher before turning gun on himself.

17 March 1996: Mothering Sunday. Parents call for ban on private ownership of handguns. By mid-month, Snowdrop petition gathers national momentum.

29 May 1996: Lord Cullen's inquiry begins.

July 3 1996: Dunblane families hand in 750,000 signature petition calling for handgun ban.

October 1996: Lord Cullen's report presented to parliament.

November 1996: Government defeats attempts to outlaw all handguns, including .22 calibre pistols. In vote on Firearms (Amendments) Bill.

December 1996: Dunblane children singing 'Knockin' on Heaven's Door' goes to No. 1 in the pop charts.

27 February 1997: Handgun ban becomes law. Covers all handguns above .22; requires destruction of 160,000 of 200,000 legal handguns.

1 May 1997: Snowdrop campaign winds up; hands over lobbying for total ban to Gun Control Network.

DAILY POEM

Book Ends (I)

By Tony Harrison

Baked the day she suddenly dropped dead
we chew it slowly that last apple pie.

Shocked into sleeplessness you're scared of bed.
We never could talk much, and now don't try.

You're like book ends, the pair of you, she'd say,
Hog that grate, say nothing, sit, sleep, stare . . .

The "scholar" me, you, worn out on poor pay,
only our silence made us seem a pair.

Not as good for staring in, blue gas,
too regular each bud, each yellow spike.

A night you need my company to pass
and she not here to tell us we're alike!

Your life's all shattered into smithereens.

Back in our silences and sullen looks,
for all the Scotch we drink, what's still between's
not the thirty or so years, but books, books, books.

Tony Harrison will be reading "Book Ends" just before 2200 today on Radio 3. All the poems that have appeared this week come from his Selected Poems (Penguin, £6.99). ©Tony Harrison

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End of the road: After weeks of relentless campaigning, the party leaders can only put down their political arms, sit back and wait

Security fears cast cloud on Labour's poll idyll

Jason Bennett
Crime Correspondent

The police and security services will be on high alert today amid fears that the IRA may choose the first day of the new government to continue its campaign of disruption.

Polling passed off peacefully yesterday following an unprecedented package of security measures, including the use of armed police officers at the Labour leader's home seat of Sedgefield, where police took the highly unusual step of using officers armed with Heckler and Koch automatic weapons, and wearing bullet-proof vests, to patrol the village and polling station at Trimdon, Co Durham.

A police spokesman said a small number of armed officers had been used in the Durham force's area for several weeks as part of the heightened security alert, and that the officers used yesterday were for Tony Blair's protection, rather than for voters going to the polls.

It made for an incongruous scene. Mr Blair in shirtsleeves, his wife, Cherie, and their children, Euan, 13, Nicholas, 11, and Kathryn, 9, looked relaxed under clear blue skies as they strolled to the tiny, flower-decked polling station at Trimdon Colliery Community Centre, shadowed by the armed

police officers. Outside the Blair's home - a large Victorian house situated half-way down a tiny dirt track - two officers, again in bulletproof vests and cradling automatic weapons, stood guard all day.

"We never discuss the specifics of security, but, along with other forces, we increased our anti-terrorism measures in the run-up to Christmas," said George Oliver, spokesman for Durham Constabulary. "There has been an increase in the public appearance of armed officers over the past few weeks along certain routes."

"Naturally, security for the principals in the election has to be taken seriously and it has been heightened in recent weeks because of the [terrorist] problems that have happened across the country."

Extra police officers were on duty at many of the country's 45,000 polling stations, and covert surveillance operations were carried out, along with bomb searches at the counting centres.

But anti-terrorist officers believe that today is a more likely target. The IRA may be tempted to seize the new government's attention by staging a series of bomb threats in the first hours of power. Any motorway, railway and airport closures will have added impact



Armed escort: The Blair family leaving the well-guarded polling station in Sedgefield after voting

Photograph: David Rose

as all route-ways are expected to be clogged with people travelling for the Bank Holiday weekend.

There is also a precedent for a post-election hit. The night after John Major's victory in the 1992 general election, terrorists carried out two "spectaculars" with massive bomb blasts in the City of London and at Staples Corner at the southern end of the M1.

In the Baltic Exchange attack the IRA detonated a massive car bomb in the heart of the City, killing three people and injuring 91. The bomb at Staples Corner injured no one but caused extensive damage.

A spokesman for the West Midlands police, who have had to cope with several preventable coded telephone warnings, said: "The pattern suggests

that Friday is a more likely target than polling day.

A Bank Holiday weekend on the first day of a new government is a choice target. With this in mind we are a number of

their ability to bring mayhem to motorways, the railways and air services with coded telephone calls, some warning of genuine devices, some merely hoaxes.

ficers in the constituencies of England and Wales unprecedented advice on how to minimise disruption in the event of bomb threats.

Similar advice went to officials in the Scottish and Ulster constituencies.

The party leaders and other prominent politicians were all closely shadowed yesterday by armed, plain-clothes officers.

In one of the few incidents yesterday to involve the police, a 19-year-old man was arrested at a polling station in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, on suspicion of impersonating another voter.

"There'll be a few bottles of champagne drunk tonight," said Colin Thompson, the band's guitarist. "I'll try and get Tony up to play - but then, I've been trying to get him up since 1983 without success.

"I think you could say he's nurturing his talent."

As all route-ways are expected to be clogged with people travelling for the Bank Holiday weekend, there is a risk of disruption.

Polling stations were scourred for explosive devices ahead of opening at 7am, additional police officers were on guard and voters faced the prospect of being searched.

Last Friday, the Home Office sent the acting returning officer workers and to drum up a few extra votes.

At Trindon Labour Club, where he was due to make his first speech as Prime Minister, there were scenes of excited anticipation. A bank of 16 television sets was set up to allow 400 members and guests to watch the results roll in. Federation, a Gateshead brewery, had arranged an election special to help the party along - beer at 79p a pint - and the John Winston rock 'n' roll band had been booked for the night.

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Scots line up for referendum battle

Stephen Goodwin

Barely will election posters have been torn from the lamp posts in Scotland before voters are subjected to another bout of saturation campaigning.

The campaign for "yes" votes in a referendum for a Scottish parliament is already in motion and preparing for its formal launch in a fortnight's time.

Partnership for a Parliament has bidden its time during the

warfare of the past six weeks in the hope of building an alliance of politicians from all parties as well as business, trade unions and the churches once the election dust has settled.

George Robertson, for one, Labour's spokesman for Scotland, would like to see pro-devolution Tories and Scottish National Party (SNP) members joining a broad coalition for a double yes vote — one for the Parliament and one for tax varying powers.

In a lecture 10 days ago, away from the heat of the hustings, Mr Robertson looked forward to a "more consensual model of politics" emerging in Scotland, notably as a result of the proportional representation system proposed for the parliament.

"I appreciate that for all of the political parties this will come as something of a culture shock — but it will ultimately be to Scotland's advantage if we can end the adversarial, y'all-

boo politics which has come to typify Westminster," he said.

However a parliament on Edinburgh's Calton Hill is still some years off — 1999 is the target date — and for the next six months campaigners will be focused on the referendum planned for the autumn.

Partnership for a Parliament is the working title of the organising group for yes votes to the devolution scheme drawn up by the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

A catchier title will emerge before the launch on 15 May. A Tory victory would wreck the timetable but prospect of an alliance for reform would still be explored.

Chairied by Glasgow businessman Nigel Smith and with Esther Robertson, former co-ordinator of the Convention, as acting organiser, the group has set up a small office within walking distance of the proposed parliament building.

Some £130,000 has been raised from unions and business together with a contribution for research from the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust.

Four places have been left vacant on the steering group for Conservative and SNP figures to complete the spread of civic, political and business leaders involved.

Political parties are not formally represented but the group certainly has the support of Mr Robertson and Jim Wallace, leader of the Scottish

Liberal Democrats. It also has the blessing of the Constitutional Convention, which remains in being as the guardian of the home rule blueprint agreed in 1995, but is deliberately keeping at arms length from it.

The Convention is anathema to the SNP and the Tories who refused to participate in its work.

The key questions for the referendum lobby over the next few weeks is whether Tory and SNP members will climb aboard and the scale of any "no" campaign. Ms Robertson said yesterday that if Michael Forsyth lost his Stirlig seat a well-financed "say no" group would appear quickly.

"You can be certain of it. A clear majority of Scots want constitutional change. The challenge for us is to hold on to that support in the face of a fear campaign by the opposition and also voter fatigue," said Ms Robertson.

Confusion candidates deliver their spoils

Paul McCann

The Labour Party was inundated with calls from angry supporters in five constituencies yesterday after voters discovered they had voted for candidates confusingly calling themselves New Labour.

Most complaints were being made in Hammersmith and Fulham where William Johnson Smith, the son of Tory MP Geoffrey Johnson Smith, was standing as a New Labour candidate and took votes from the real Labour candidate, Iain Coleman.

In Cardiff South and Penarth the party confirmed that it had received calls from voters who were confused about the provenance of John Foreman, who described himself as "New Labour" on the ballot paper.

Mr Foreman was an inactive member of the Labour Party, but gave the party no reason for standing against it.

"I think he just wanted to see his name on the ballot paper," said the real Labour candidate Alun Michael. The seat was a strong Labour seat with a majority of 10,000.

Other seats targeted by "New Labour" candidates were Cannock, Hackney South and Shoreditch and Hackney.

The Conservatives too had their share of confusion candidates. In the safe Tory seat of Hove they faced an "Official Hove Conservative". And in both Brighton Pavilion and Winchester the man who started the fad for confusion candidates, Richard Huggett, was standing as a Conservative.

Mr Huggett stood in the 1994 European Parliament elections as a "Literal Democrat". Because his name appeared above the real Liberal Democrat candidate's name on the ballot paper's alphabetical list he took 10,000 votes and stopped the party from taking the seat from the Conservatives.

The High Court later ruled that the fact that some voters might be confused by a candidates chosen words of description did not amount to a breach of the Representation of the People Act.

A Labour Party spokesman said that while Hammersmith and Fulham was far down its list of target seats at 77, it was still eminently winnable without the confusion caused by Mr

Election? What election? — the don't know factor

Kim Sengupta

After six weeks of saturation media coverage, it is clear that many people have been totally turned off by the general election. Some, suffering from political fatigue, have decided to opt out altogether and not exercise their right to vote.

But, extraordinarily, it is also the case that the entire election blitz has passed by many people. Some are totally unaware what the election is about, and who is standing. Many do not have a clue what the parties' policies are.

On Monday in Bedford, one of the 100 marginals Labour must win to get a majority, I met a 22-year-old hotel worker with a wife and two babies to support, who is earning £3 an hour. Yet the young man, who has known nothing but Tory governments, is convinced that if Labour gets in he will lose his housing benefit and all state benefits would go to people on the dole.

He asked which day the election was and theo what would happen if Labour won. When told the Labour leader would be the next prime minister, he wanted to know who the leader was.

A minicab driver, Gerry, in Ilford, an Essex constituency Labour hopes to win, had been told that Tony Blair's victory would be followed by free travel for all on London transport. Why should he vote Labour and put his livelihood in danger?

He could not bring himself to vote Conservative, so he would not vote at all. He is also trying to find alternate employment because of the "free

travel" threat. When asked who gave him this nugget of opposition transport policy, he recalled that it was a customer.

Political ignorance is not determined purely on educational or class grounds. The day I met the £3-an-hour Bedford hotel worker, I ran into a customer in a bar in Fleet Street much frequented by people allegedly in the "know" such as journalists and lawyers.

A barrister was saying that he was not going to vote Conservative because "they are a shambles". But people would be mad to vote for Labour because "Blair would be out on his ear, with some lefties like Keo Livingstone taking over within months".

He apparently got this from "security sources". The same sources had also revealed to him that more than 40 Labour MPs were suspected former Soviet spies. The barrister is an in the Territorial Army.

David Denver, a reader in politics at Lancaster University, said: "There is no doubt that a lot of people, especially young people, have got no interest in the electoral process. They do not feel an interest in the question of government and effectively they have fallen outside the system."

Mr Denver, convenor of the Election Studies Group, the body of senior psychologists, continued: "These people have been disenfranchised because they tend to read tabloid newspapers, normally from back to front, and thus would not have access to the kind of information they would need to make political judgements."



Home ground: Gerry Adams finds a warm welcome in West Belfast yesterday. Photograph: Martin McCullagh

Ulster's tribes maintain their loyalties to reinforce the great divide

David McKittrick
Ireland Correspondent

If there is such a thing as passive hostility it was on show at the big Whiterock polling station in West Belfast yesterday. Outside it was a shrine to Gerry Adams while inside was a Royal Ulster Constabulary stronghold. It was a little like Fort Apache, the Bronx.

Visitors could be forgiven for concluding that Adams was the only candidate standing. The Sinn Fein president's like-narratives were everywhere, posters all over the lamposts and two large drawings of him tied on to the railings of the graveyard opposite. There were no non-Adams posters.

The Sinn Fein caravan outside contained six women and a girl, one of the women organising sandwiches while others nursed large pieces of cardboard on their knees. Lists of streets, houses and voters

had been taped to each piece of cardboard.

On some pieces various names had been highlighted in yellow. On others a variety of highlighters had been used to colour-code the names of the voters. It all looked very complex and highly methodical.

At the gates of the building stood nine men, all Sinn Fein supporters, some handing out leaflets, some just standing around. There were no non-Adams supporters.

Voters walked through a car park and into the hall. To get there they had to pass through a small courtyard in which stood five policemen, all with revolvers, one nursing a rifle. There were no Adams supporters.

The Sinn Fein caravan outside contained six women and a girl, one of the women organising sandwiches while others nursed large pieces of cardboard on their knees. Lists of streets, houses and voters

Across the city, outside a polling station on the Limestone Road, a Protestant area of North Belfast, a single relaxed policeman cooed and talked baby-talk to two toddlers in a double pram: he was minding them while their mother was inside voting.

This little segment of the city is almost 100 per cent Protestant, and its Unionist MP is assured of re-election. But the nationalist vote in the constituency as a whole is rising steadily as the Catholic population increases and the Protestant community dwindles. Many of the more mobile Protestants have simply moved out.

An Ulster Unionist councillor lounged against the railings of the graveyard opposite. The worrying thing about this election is very few young people on our side [are] voting, very few. The vast majority here are all elderly — the young Prods just don't vote.

"Sinn Fein, now, would be all young, they've actually galvanised the young vote on their side."

He and another councillor are ferrying Protestant old people in to vote, one of them a lady of 82. This is essentially a Protestant polling station but a hundred yards up the road is a Catholic church hall where the Catholics, some of them indeed much younger, can be seen casting their votes.

One of the Unionist councillors pointed to a junction in the road and said: "I suppose that's the interface." It is a line as imaginary as the equator but in North Belfast it is full of meaning: houses close in it have grilles on the windows to keep out the bricks.

And on each side of it Belfast's two communities could be seen, in the city's mutually exclusive worlds, trooping dutifully to vote against each other.

'Vote, then leave the polling station. Do not hang around for cappuccino'

First-timer Emma Forrest strode out bravely, armed with ideals, to vote Lib Dem

for them if they had a chance of getting in. Here is a chance, I reasoned; it is mine and I am giving it to them. I walked to the polling station with a spring in my step and a newspaper in my bag because I was sure there would be queues. Nope. 9.30am and just me. Why had I got up early to wash my hair? I wanted to look good for the ballot box, I guess.

All my life I've wanted to vote. Even in my wildest dreams I never imagined it could be this... overwhelming. The rules tacked to the wall said "Cast your vote. Leave the polling station". Do not hang around for cappuccino. I was vaguely expecting a medal. Not for voting Liberal Democrat; if my friends kept their word, I'm hardly the only one. But for turning up at

all. Because the ones who are kind of my friends but who I also kind of want to kick in the shin are all still saying "Why bother voting? They're all the same".

They are absolutely not all the same and deciding between Labour and the Liberals was tough. It came down to single issues and personalities. Paddy Ashdown has said emphatically that the homosexual age of consent should be 16, whereas Tony Blair did not even turn up to vote on it. It reminded me that there is an element to the Labour Party that hates gays and women.

And because John Prescott was rude to me and my friend Barbara at the Brit awards, even though we love him, and drunkenly told him so. Staggering to the toilets

we spotted a big, grumpy looking man with his arms folded across his chest. "Oh my God! It's John Prescott!" I squealed, before adding "but it might just be one of Oasis's bouncers". Barbara marched up to him and demanded "Excuse me, are you John Prescott or one of Oasis's bouncers?" "I'm John Prescott" he hissed. "Oh, my mate likes you." "Oh," said John, through gritted teeth and ran like hell. Strike two against new Labour.

Don't get me wrong: I'm thrilled for Blair. I just hope he's not going to get accidentally locked in the toilet and Robin Cook can take over. And I'm glad I voted Liberal Democrat. Still, the impersonality of the voting booth, the way I was practically shoved out of the door as soon as it was done. Oh Paddy, do ring me and tell me you weren't just using me for my nubility.



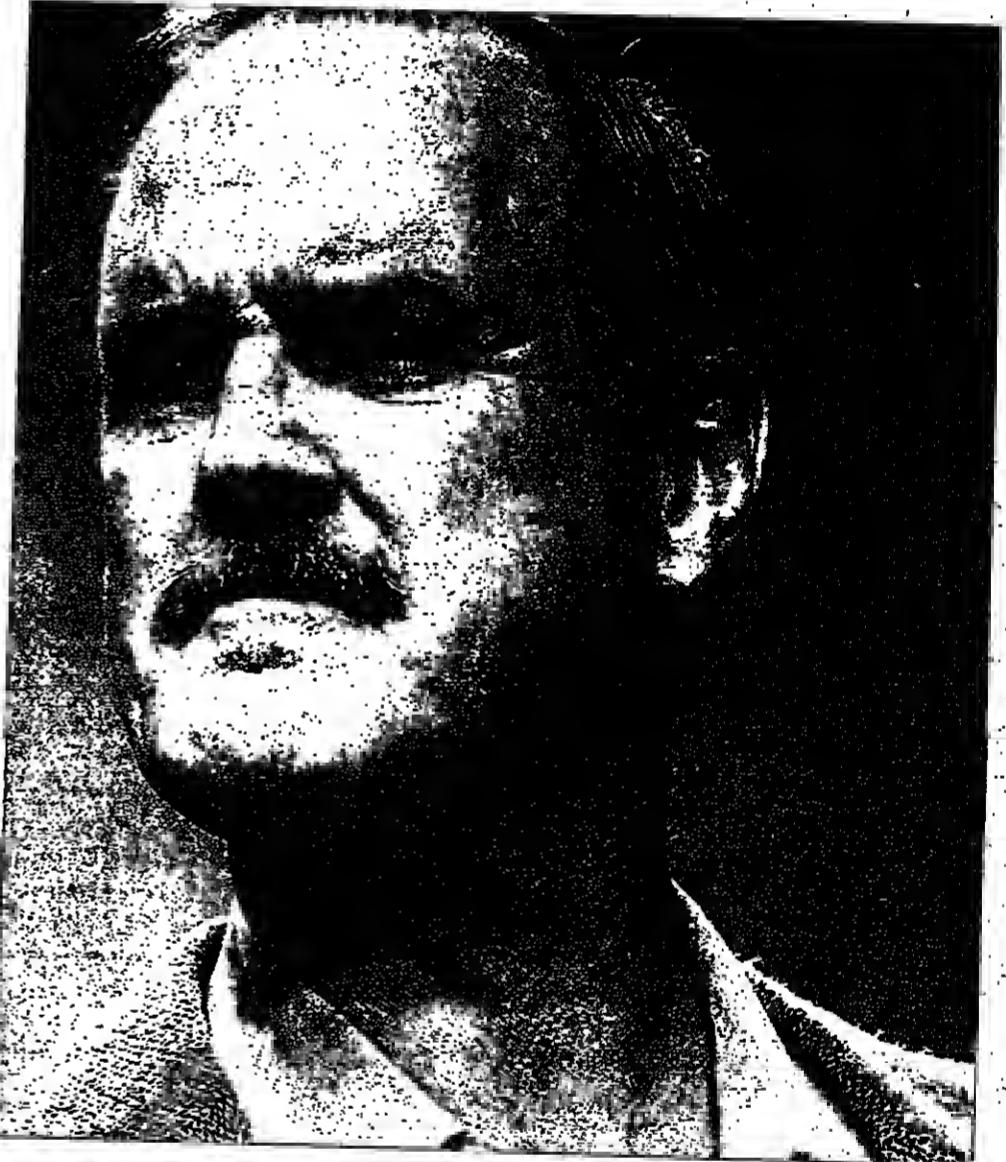
Emma Forrest: Let down by the ballot box

Laughter, tears, sleaze and spin:



View from the top, faces in the crowd: John Major on the 50th floor of Canary Wharf (left) and (right) the Tory party faithful listen to their leader at the Royal Albert Hall, early in the campaign

Photographs: Tom Pilston



High drama, Whitehall farce: Neil and Christine Hamilton on the warpath (left). John Cleese stands tall for the Liberal Democrats (right) Photographs: Peter Macdiarmid/ Nicola Kurtz



Past: Baroness Thatcher (above left) campaigns in Aldershot, Hampshire
Photograph: Tom Pilston



Present: Michael Heseltine (below left) bullish in Castle Douglas, Scotland
Photograph: Drew Farrell

Future? A lonely poster (right) in a field in Great Stukeley, Huntingdonshire – just a few yards from John Major's constituency home
Photograph: Brian Harris



JPM 150

the long trail to the day of destiny



Arms and the man, pressing the flesh: Tony Blair embraces the electorate in Mitcham (left) and takes an opportunity to grab hold of the feel-good factor (right)

Photographs: David Rose



Young hearts, tired bodies: A youthful Liberal Democrat (left). Paddy Ashdown's gruelling schedule catches up with him (right)

Photographs: Kalpesh Lathigra/ John Voos



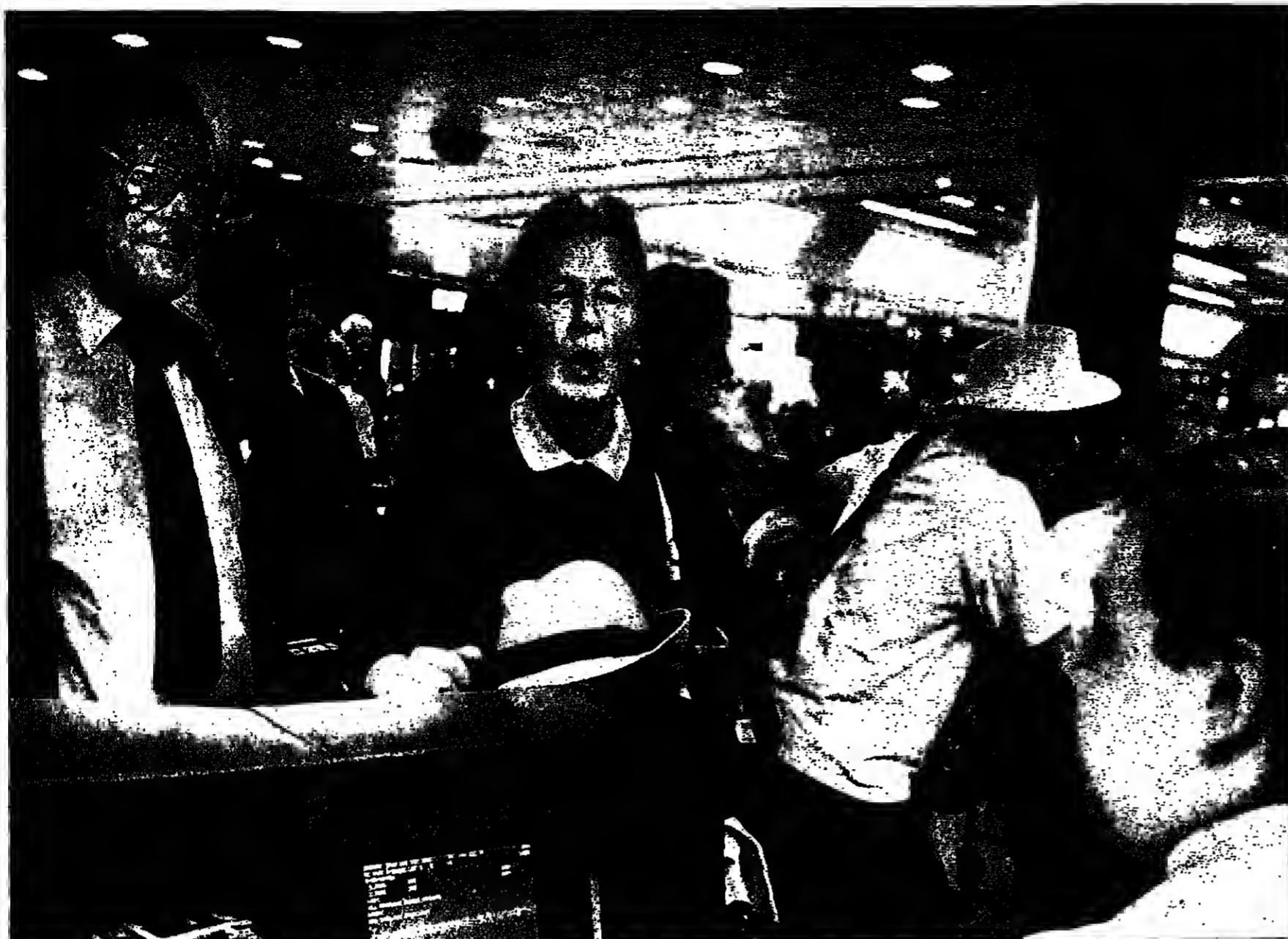
Dog days: A bulldog (left) is a spin-doctor's best friend
Photograph: Andrew Burman



Flag days: A Liberal Democrat (above right) gets it in the neck at a party rally on the last day of campaigning
Photograph: John Voos



Heady days: Labour was able to count on hundreds of Asian voters when Tony Blair arrived in Leicester
Photograph: David Rose



Election exodus: Air travellers at Birmingham Airport yesterday were bent on getting to the beach rather than the polling booth

Getaway crowd vote for the departure lounge

Democratic ennui has prompted a holiday exodus, write Lucy Ward and Jojo Moyes

Sun, sea, sangria and the promise of no swingometers yesterday drew queues of holidaymakers to flee the country on polling day for a Mediterranean break. After weeks besieged by pollsters, canvassers and baby-kissing politicians, travellers were swapping polling cards for boarding cards in the rush to get out before the count.

Among beach-bound Midlanders crowding the check-in desks at Birmingham Airport were plenty for whom packing sun-oil had proved more pressing than exercising their democratic rights. Barry Camp, a scaffolder, travelling light with just a carry-on holdall for a week in Majorca, admitted he had been nowhere near a polling booth. "I can't be bothered I know it's wrong really but I've got other things on my mind." Mr Camp, from Leicester, had booked his break on the eve of polling day after the six-week campaign finally frayed his nerves. "I'll be staying with a friend who runs a bar and I probably won't know and he won't till I get back."

None of the five eligible members of the Tate and Rose families, off to the Med together in matching Wolverhampton Wanderers shirts, had been out to vote before checking in. "We are sick of the election," said Denyka Tate. "We are going to Spain and we won't be phoning home to find out the result. We have

got two weeks away from the whole thing."

Jane and Kelly Yardley, mother and daughter, booked their week in Palma before election day was announced but were untroubled by the clash of dates. "We've not voted - we were busy packing this morning," said Kelly, 19, an accounts trainee. "It doesn't really matter who gets in - it never makes any difference." Her mother agreed. "I am thoroughly sick of the whole thing. I'll be lying on that beach and I can tell you I won't be thinking about John Major."

Michelle Jamieson, 24, heading for Malaga with three girlfriends, admitted she had forgotten it was polling day until her mother reminded her on the way to the airport. "To be honest, if it came to a choice between voting and going off my head with sangria or smogging in the pool, I know which one I'd go for."

Only Marie Flinn, 21, on her way to Spain, confessed to a twinge of remorse after avoiding the polling station. She confessed: "I'll feel really guilty if it all rests on one vote."

■ There's some consolation for the election losers: Thomson are offering the 3,061 unsuccessful candidates a chance to escape to Majorca, writes Sam Coates. With their spouses, they can apply for one of the 320 places available, allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

Left-wingers slip through Blair's net

Job Rabkin

At least seven left-wingers have slipped through New Labour's tight selection net, designed to weed out possible embarrassments to a Blair government, according to a survey by *The Independent*.

The newcomers will add to the core of left-wing MPs, including Ken Livingstone, who plan to set up a "1997 Committee" of backbenchers to form a hulky to the leadership.

Interviewed in *Red Pepper* magazine in March, Mr Livingstone said the committee would be based on the Tory 1922 Committee. "The Millbank tendency will realise they need our support to get their programmes through and will find themselves under attack if they do reactionary things," he said.

Millbank strategists were careful to ensure that left-wing candidates remained invisible during the course of the campaign. Tony Blair's battle buses carefully avoided visiting their constituencies, preferring to be seen with candidates with solid Blairite credentials.

In safe Labour seats vacated by retiring MPs, two known left-wingers will take up their seats in the House of Commons - Hazel Blears, who stood in Salford East and Marsha Singh, the candidate for Bradford West.

In the 57 key marginals two left-wingers have been identified: Ann Cryer, widow of left-wing MP Bob Cryer, who contested Keighley (43rd on Labour's target list) and John McDonnell, a former deputy to Ken Livingstone at the GLC who stood in Hayes and Harlington (2nd on Labour's target list). The three others are Iain Coleman in Hammersmith and Fulham (77th on the target

list), Paul Truswell in Pudsey (85th on the target list), and Harold Best in Leeds North West (91st on the target list).

Other candidates not seen as totally reliable by staff at Millbank Tower also failed to qualify for a visit from the leader. Some have histories the party would rather not highlight; others were avoided because the candidates beat the list, Paul Truswell in Pudsey (85th on the target list), and Harold Best in Leeds North West (91st on the target list).

Janet Dean, the candidate for Burton in Staffordshire known to favour traditional Labour values, did not receive a visit from Mr Blair. Local journalists described Ms Dean, a former Mayor of East Staffordshire, as a John Prescott fan who "could not really be described as new Labour". Campaign managers

decided instead on a visit to neighbouring Derbyshire South, where Mark Todd, a known Blairite and former leader of Cambridge Council is standing. The key seat of Worcester suffered the same fate. Despite the high profile of "Worcester Woman", the stereotype of the kind of voter Labour had to win over, the leadership buses neatly missed the seat. Investi-

gation into the background of the candidate Mike Wilson suggested his only fault was to beat a Millbank candidate, Derek Scott, at selection. The local party rejected Mr Scott because he had stood as a candidate for the SDP in 1983.

Mr Blair did visit the neighbour-

ing seat of Redditch, a mere 18 miles away, where Jacqui Smith, a well-known

spokesman, said they had been ready to receive them.

The visit was cancelled last Friday after a story accused John Prescott of physical aggression when he was asked about the departure of Doug Hoyle, the MP for Warrington North who was recently induced to stand down to make way for an alternative candidate.

Yvette Cooper (28), an In-

dependent journalist and partner of Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's right-hand man, was shortlisted for the seat but lost to Helen Jones, a solicitor from Widnes.

Labour Party sources in Warrington say that Ms Jones - described as a "traditional tax-and-spend, egalitarian left-winger" - became a champion of a revolt against the imposition of candidates by Millbank. Members organised hard to get a local candidate selected.

Yvette Cooper was later selected to fight Pontefract and Castleford, a safe Labour seat with a majority of 23,495.

Bailey and Spen was another seat the Blair buses decided not to call in at. The Labour candidate, Mike Wood, was selected in July 1995 over a favoured Millbank candidate, Catherine Ashton. Barry Salmon, editor of the *Dewsbury Reporter*, told *The Independent* a visit from the leadership could have made all the difference to the campaign. Mr Wood stood against Elizabeth Peacock, the maverick Tory who has a strong personal following and made substantial mileage by opposing the Government on key issues.

Terry Tordoff, Mr Wood's agent said, "Tory Blair was 'quietly confident' that Labour would take the seat. Switching voters were being carefully targeted. 'Millbank have quietly told us to get on with it,' he said yesterday.

A Labour spokesman said: "All candidates supported the party's manifesto and were democratically selected under the one-member, one-vote system." Late cases were decided by a National Executive Committee by-election subcommittee which provided a shortlist of candidates.



Harold Best

Age: 57

Seat: Leeds North West

(target seat number 91)

Opponent: Dr Keith Hamps-

son

(Con maj. 7,671)

An electrical technician by trade, he has a long history on the left of the Labour Party. A member of the Communist Party until 1956, he has been a trade unionist, lay preacher and ethical socialist. He was linked to the emergence of the New Left in the 1960s and was a friend of the left-wing historian EP Thompson.

Hazel Blears

Age: 41

Seat: Salford

(Lab maj. 12,987)

She is a solicitor and chair of the North-West Regional Labour Party. Born in Salford, she has been active in the Labour Party for 20 years. In 1992 she contested the marginal seat of Bury St. Edmunds. Although she has undergone a transformation in image in recent years, she was an active left-winger during the late 1980s. She opposed the abolition of Clause IV.

Ann Cryer

Age: 58

Seat: Keighley, West York-

shire

(Opponent: Gary Waller

(Con, maj. 3,500))

She was a researcher and personal assistant to her husband Bob Cryer MP, who died in a car accident in April 1994. Local activists were eager for her to stand in his place rather than a candidate imposed from Millbank and she finally accepted after being convinced by Tony Benn. She describes herself as a "lifelong rebel".

John McDonnell

Age: 46

Seat: Hayes and Harlington

(Opponent: Andrew Rutter

(Con, maj. 44))

John McDonnell was deputy leader of the GLC under Ken Livingstone. He has called for the renationalisation of the railways, water, gas and electricity and has opposed the leadership on Clause IV, tax, education and local government. He was sued for libelling Tory MP Terry Dicks after the last election and had to pay £78,000 costs and damages.

Marsha Singh

Age: 43

Seat: Bradford West

(Opponent: Mohammed Riaz

(Con, maj. 9,502))

Marsha Singh was educated at the University of Loughborough and works as a senior development manager in the National Health Service. A secular socialist, Mr Singh is opposed to privatisation and in favour of redistributive taxation. He also voted with his local constituency party against the abortion of Clause IV.

Paul Truswell

Age: 41

Seat: Pudsey

(Opponent: Peter Bone

(Con, maj. 8,972))

A former journalist and local government officer in Wakefield, he is chair of the Community Benefits and Rights Committee on Wakefield Council and a member of the civil rights group Liberty. His personal interests include health and social services, poverty and community development. He is widely respected as a principled left-winger and able politician.

Brave new world for the next generation of lobby fodder . . .

Chris Moncrieff
Press Association

There are few more pathetic sights than that of a new MP standing in the Members' Lobby of the House of Commons, confused and alarmed, a little boy/girl lost amid the overwhelming grandeur and majesty of Parliament.

A few days earlier they were bellowing through a loudspeaker at their campaign-saturated would-be electors, feted on all sides, monarchs of all they surveyed.

Now they are cruelly brought down to size, the dazed new pupils. Lost in a myriad of corridors, not knowing which way to turn or what to do, they are pitiful figures engulfed by meaningless rules and incomprehensible procedures, and a building which makes the Hampton Court maze seem a cakewalk.

Only 48 hours earlier, they were on the brink of putting the country to rights, and after that the world. Now, all these heady ambitions must take second place to finding the loo and

A rough guide to Westminster for the 1997 intake of novice MPs

somewhere to buy a sandwich. All MPs complain, later on, that no one ever tells them what to do on arrival. Like first-time sex, one of them once told me, they thrash around in the dark and hope against hope that it will all come right in the end. Well, they need complain no more. Here are a few tips for the wet-behind-the-ears brigade:

■ The very first essential, especially if you are in the majority party, is to find a "pair", an opponent to enable you to duck off votes together. An MP without a pair is unmistakable - a fretful, sleepless individual, who is compelled to live, night and day, at Westminster.

■ Be ingratiating, even uncouth, towards the police and uniformed doorkeepers, and especially to the MP in charge of allocating office space. They have subtle powers to make your political life hell-on-earth.

■ Find out where the vote of office is (for documents), the Post Office (for mail), and "The Board" (for messages). Always check carefully before you respond to a call from a "constituent" in the Central Lobby. You may find yourself lummiced with a crank.

■ Tear up all junk-mail, do not reply to green-ink correspondence, do not take cash for questions, and do not give your phone number to strangers. ■ Forget about your private life. You have just ended it. Any amount on the side should be conducted with the utmost discretion, or preferably not at all. Opt for the celibate life.

■ Don't forget that in Annie's Bar (a windowless, subterranean dump), the haunt of backs and MPs, a round includes everyone who is in the bar at the time. Once in this "prison", you have to buy your own drink. It sometimes costs hours - and a lot of money. ■ Should you wish to escape from the press, go to the Tea-room, the smoking room and the Members' Dining Room. But be warned: reporters tend to lurk and pounce at the most awkward moments and in the most surprising places.

■ If you want a reputation for being cocky and arrogant, make your maiden speech early. The wisest course is to wait until you know what you are talking about.

■ Do not try to flout and criticise rules which may seem pointless. If you antagonise the Speaker, your life will be a misery. And recognise now that the power of the backbencher is relatively zero. You would have more power on a parish council - and that is not a joke.

■ Always toe the party line. Remember, until and unless you get that great call to serve on the front bench, you are simply lobby fodder as far as the whips are concerned. Indeed, however grand you become, you remain the tool of the whips, who do not care how important you think you are.

Welcome to Westminster.

...and goodbye to all that for the ranks of the vanquished

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Today, dozens of defeated MPs are walking up to the realisation that it is all over. Years of hectic schedules, weeks on the hustings, a night of high anxiety and then - bang. Nothing. Those election-night scenes, played out again last night, are familiar. The candidates ranged nervously around the returning officer, the huge cheer as the victor is announced, the magnanimous, choking speech of congratulation from the party.

Many will have been expecting this, of course. But among the hardest-hit will be those who never believed they could lose. For some, there will be the added humiliation of watching the chauffeur drive the ministerial car away for the last time.

Most will pick themselves up quickly and a few will be back on the national stage in new roles within months. Others will feel bereaved for years. One of those in the first category in 1992 was Rosie Barnes, the SDP MP for Greenwich in south London, who suffered a 1,000-vote defeat at the hands of Labour's Nick Raynsford. Within two days, though, she was on the road to a new life as the director of Birthright - now Well-being - an obstetrics charity.

While some struggle to keep smiling on their faces, Ms Barnes did not mind letting her disappointment show. After the count, she went to bed for a couple of sleepless hours and then got up, put on her make-up and set out for a round of pre-arranged interviews. "When I came home, early afternoon on Friday, that was it. There was nothing left to be done," she said. "I felt sadness confined with relief."

She had prepared herself for the possibility of defeat, but the next day she felt tired and deflated. On the Sunday, her husband suggested a walk and a drink in a country pub. Flicking

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Some consolation is
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irst-come first-served basis.

net

Independent Journalist and
Editor of *Big Balls*, a
Revolution's right-hand man,
shortlisted for the role
by Helen Jones, a well-
known *Wales*.

Labour Party see
Warrington say that it
described as "a traditional
and peaceful vigilante
action" - became a
case of a protest against the
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Menzies, who organised
get a local candidate
- Robert Cooper was
selected to fight Penrith
Central and a safe Lab
vote - a majority of 23.

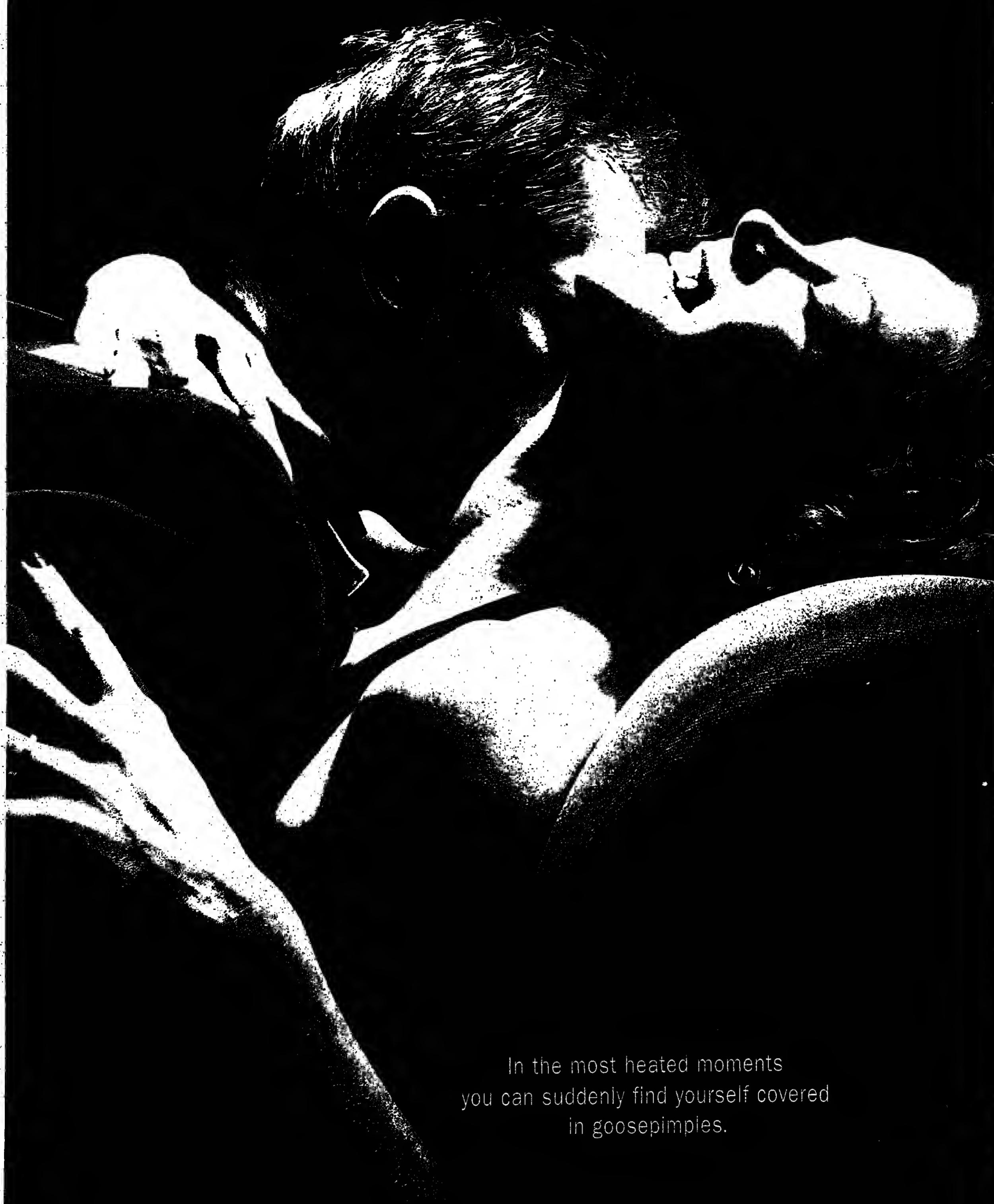
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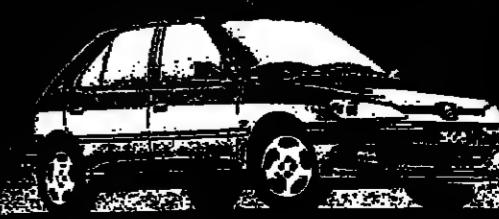
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it.)



In the most heated moments
you can suddenly find yourself covered
in goosepimplies.

THE NEW PEUGEOT 306. NOW WITH AIR-CONDITIONING





Homeward bound: A handcuffed Archie 'Mad Dog' McCafferty under the guard of Australian police during his incarceration

How many extra orders will you drum up with BT's new Freefone offer?



Up to 7½ hours of free calls every month, for 3 months.

A BT Freefone number can attract three times as many customers.

That's three times as much extra business. And if that's not enough to persuade you to set one up, apply by July 21st for connection by August 31st and BT will give your business up to 7½ hours

of Freefone calls, free. Every month for three months*. So not only are calls free to your customers, they're free to you too. Blooming marvellous! For more information on Freefone numbers and details of this offer call **BT Business Connections** on Freefone 0800 800 800.

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Australia puts mass murderer on flight to UK

Killer loses deportation fight after 23 years in jail

Jason Bennetto
Crime Correspondent

"Mad Dog" McCafferty, the multiple murderer being deported from Australia after spending 23 years in jail, is due to arrive in Britain today.

Archie McCafferty, 49, is expected to return to his home city of Glasgow after losing his appeal against deportation.

McCafferty was convicted of the murder of three men and the manslaughter of a fellow prisoner. He was granted parole last month.

Despite the fact that he emigrated to Australia at the age

of 10, McCafferty never obtained citizenship and his pleas to remain with his elderly mother have been rejected.

Glasgow city council will be

obliged to house him on his return, despite protests from local people. He is reported to be

on a flight accompanied by

three Australian Immigration

Police officers, due to arrive at

Heathrow this morning.

McCafferty murdered three

men while high on drugs in

1973. He later claimed that he

had heard the voice of his son,

Craig, who had died aged six

weeks, telling him he would be

reincarnated if he killed seven

times.

While imprisoned in Parra-

matta jail he was convicted of the

manslaughter of another man.

His release followed an

appeal for forgiveness to the rel-

atives of his victims before the

New South Wales Parole Board

in Sydney on 18 April.

He apologised for his "hor-

rific crime" and insisted he was

no longer a danger. "I realise the

chaos and trauma I have created

in the families of the three vic-

tims," he said. "I can't undo

what I have done, but I sincerely

apologise from the bottom of

my heart."

"I am a changed man and I

deserve a second chance of life.

I am an older man and I am

not a psychopathic killer. To

keep me in jail and to keep your

hatred in your hearts will de-

stroy you too."

Psychiatric reports indicated

that McCafferty was free from

mental illness, and no longer

heard voices. The decision to

grant parole was greeted with

anger by the relatives of his vic-

tims who shouted abuse as he

was led away.

McCafferty wanted to stay in

Australia, where he had been

offered jobs and a place to

live. But despite living in the

country for 39 years, the Aus-

tralian High Commission in

London has said that because

of the length of time McCafferty

has spent in prison, he has al-

ways been eligible for Australian

citizenship.

A spokeswoman for the Aus-

tralian Department of Immi-

gration said yesterday: "Mr

McCafferty left Australia for

Great Britain today. He has

three escort officers with him,

who will accompany him to his

destination."

"He was taken from Parklea

correction centre to Long Bay

jail, and from Long Bay to the

airport."

As well as offering McCaf-

ferry accommodation, Glasgow

city council has assigned him

social workers to help start his

new life. The council has a legal duty

to offer assistance to released

prisoners for up to 12 months,

if requested.

A local councillor said he ob-

jected to any moves to re-house

McCafferty. Paul Martin, who

represents the city's Royston

district, said: "If they are so satis-

fied he is rehabilitated why don't they keep him in Aus-

tralia?"

Mr Martin said he under-

stood McCafferty would not be

given mainstream council hous-

ing, but would be offered sup-

ported accommodation of the

type available to offenders freed

from British jails.

Surgeon says doctors acted too late for girl

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

A leading liver transplant sur-

geon yesterday accused col-

leagues who refused to operate

on a dying 15-year-old girl of

making their decision on moral

rather than medical grounds.

Professor Roger Williams,

head of the liver unit at King's

College Hospital, London, told

a fatal accident inquiry into the

death of Michelle Paul, 15,

who suffered liver failure after

taking half an ecstasy tablet, that

worries about her family back-

ground should have played no

part in the decision as to

whether to give her a transplant.

Contradicting an earlier claim

by the transplant surgeon Dr Hilary Sankey, who headed the

team at Edinburgh Royal Infir-

mary. Professor Williams said

Michelle showed no clear sign

of irreversible brain damage

and she should have been put on

the list for the operation. Her

family claim that she was denied

a transplant on moral grounds

because of her mother's and sis-

ter's histories of drug taking.

Professor Williams said there

were indications for many days

that Michelle needed a trans-

plant and accused doctors of not

reacting fast enough to her

condition. If a transplant had

been done promptly she would

have had a 75-85 per cent

chance of survival. It would still

have been possible on the day

before she died - 27 November

1995 - but the chances of suc-

cess would have been less than

50 per cent.

Giving evidence on the sixth



Michelle Paul, 15: Died 23 days after taking ecstasy

day of the inquiry at Aberdeen Sheriff Court. Professor Williams said the pupils of Michelle's eyes were still re-

acting on the 26 November, the day before she died. "There were no clear signs that this patient had suffered irreversible brain damage."

He added that his views would be supported by the vast majority of hepatologists around the world and that the General Medical Council made it clear that patients should be given the benefit of the doubt in times of medical need.

Regarding the notes Dr Sankey had made about the case, he said: "It could not have been a clearer statement of a personal opinion ... To me it is very clear that a transplant was being looked at and was excluded on the basis of the family background."

The inquiry continues.

Arcadian idyll saved from the bulldozers

Louise Jury

Villagers from a community once described as Arcadia, the legendary Greek idyll, yesterday won a last-ditch appeal to the House of Lords to save their homes.

The residents of Holt's Field near Swansea, west Wales, were last night celebrating their success in saving their unusual properties from the bulldozer.

The 14-acre site is one of the few surviving developments of wooden chalets built between the wars. The homes have been praised by Prince Charles as

architectural magazine, *Perspectives*, for their eco-friendliness.

Six years ago a property company, Eltestone, bought the land and announced plans to repossess a number of the properties, demolish them and build luxury flats instead.

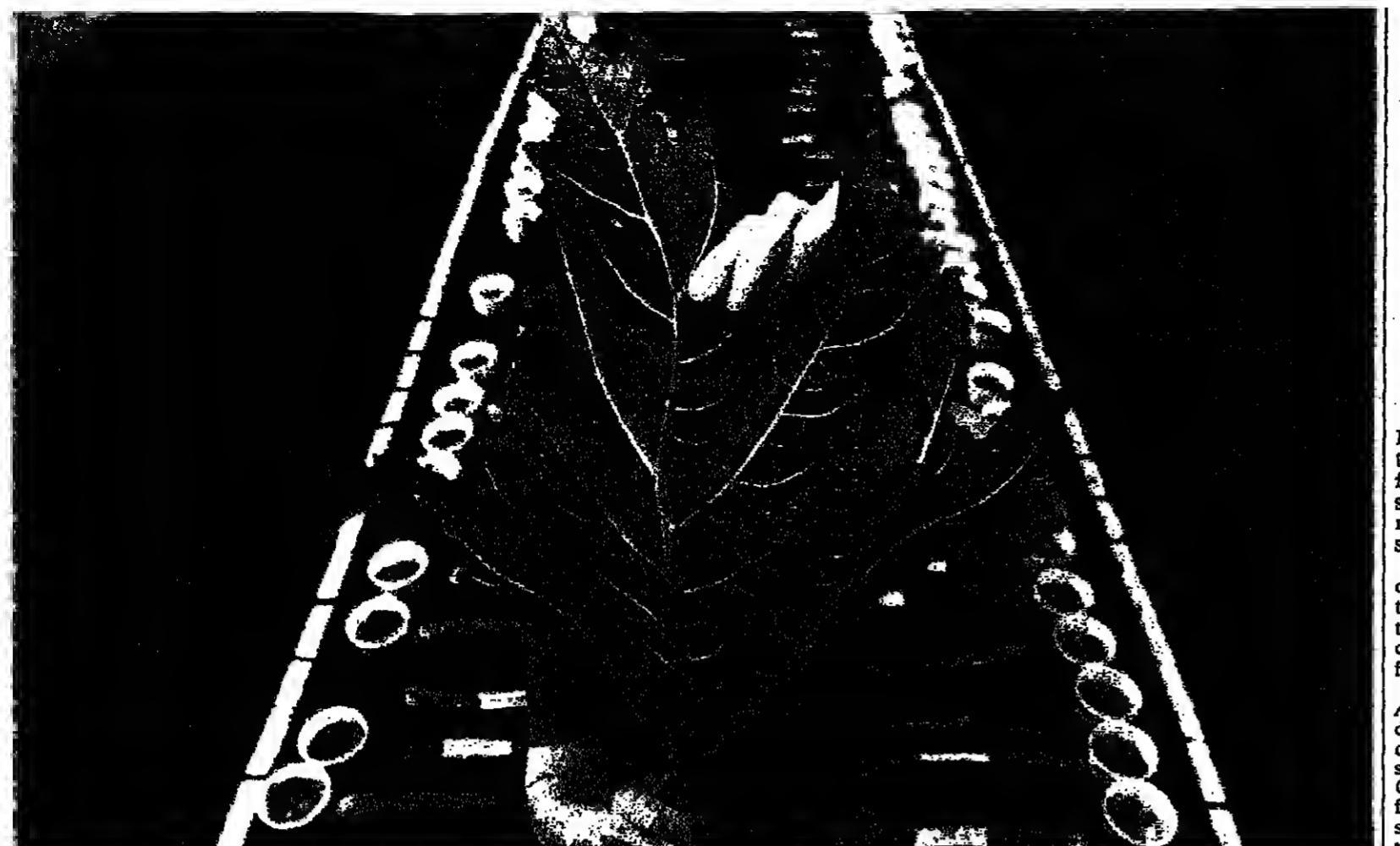
The Law Lords ruled yesterday that the residents were entitled to the protection of the 1977 Rent Act, overturning a Court of Appeal decision that they were not protected tenants because the chalets rested on concrete pillars, making the properties more like mobile homes.



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news



Talking rhubarb: Some of the 150 varieties on show at the National Rhubarb Festival in Harrogate

Photograph: John Angerson/Guzelian

New concern at side-effects of hay fever drugs

Researchers yesterday warned that more than one popular hay fever remedy sold without prescription in chemists' shops may have potentially serious side effects.

Last month the Department of Health announced that it intended to withdraw the drug terfenadine from over-the-counter sale because of safety fears.

The Medicines Control Agency is expected to make the drug available on prescription only, following a period of consultation. Experts advising the Government said that other hay fever remedies should be considered for as alternatives if there was any doubt about prescribing terfenadine.

Researchers call for closer look at all antihistamines

Nevertheless, the data indicate that some of the alternatives to terfenadine may have similar problems, suggesting that thorough consideration of the comparative benefit/risk profile of all otc-sedating antihistamines is wise.

Boots said that both loratadine and astemizole were sold over the counter.

Loratadine was contained in two products, a Boots own brand, Hayfever Relief All Day Antihistamine, and the product Clarityn. Astemizole was sold under the brand names Pollenaze and Hismanal.

Boots said that new advice had recently gone out to pharmacists to question patients about their medical history before selling them astemizole products. No such advice was recommended for loratadine.

A spokeswoman said: "With any product we obviously keep a close eye open and monitor developments, and should there be any problems we will act accordingly. We do very much take the view that the MCA is the governing body with the expertise and judgment to decide what controls to exercise on medicines."

Boots has removed terfenadine products from public display in its stores. Customers are only sold them after consultation with the pharmacist.

Prison officers vilified over hospital regime

Jeremy Laurance
Health Editor

of the Prison Officers' Association (POA) which has 1,000 members in the three hospitals.

Until the mid-1980s, the hospitals—which have been the subject of repeated scandals—were run by the Home Office as an extension of the Prisons Service but were taken over by the NHS last year. But although hospital staff are officially designated as nurses, many have retained the membership and outlook of the POA.

Calling on the next Secretary of State for Health to recognise the POA, Professor Murphy says the union must be ousted or the hospitals closed and their inmates moved elsewhere if the culture and values are to change. The most dangerous mentally disordered offenders are now cared for in regional secure units, NHS and private psychiatric hospitals which run more liberal regimes but with no less safety and without the problems that have dogged the special hospitals.

Professor Murphy, chairman of the City and Hackney Community Health Services Trust, says in the *British Medical Journal* that a large group of staff at Broadmoor, Rampton and Ashworth have a damaging influence on standards of care through their authoritarian and denigrating attitude to patients.

Echoing repeated criticisms by the Mental Health Act Commission over more than a decade, she says the hospitals suffer from an "impoverished regime, overly restrictive regulations and lack of therapeutic optimism"—the blame for which must be laid at the door.

Broadmoor hospital and the Prison Officers Association yesterday dismissed Professor Murphy's views as out of date. She was a member of the 1992 Ashworth inquiry which exposed a brutal regime, and the POA said her comments dated back to before then. It added: "This is a scurrilous attack. Her allegations of threats and intimidation are clearly unfounded."

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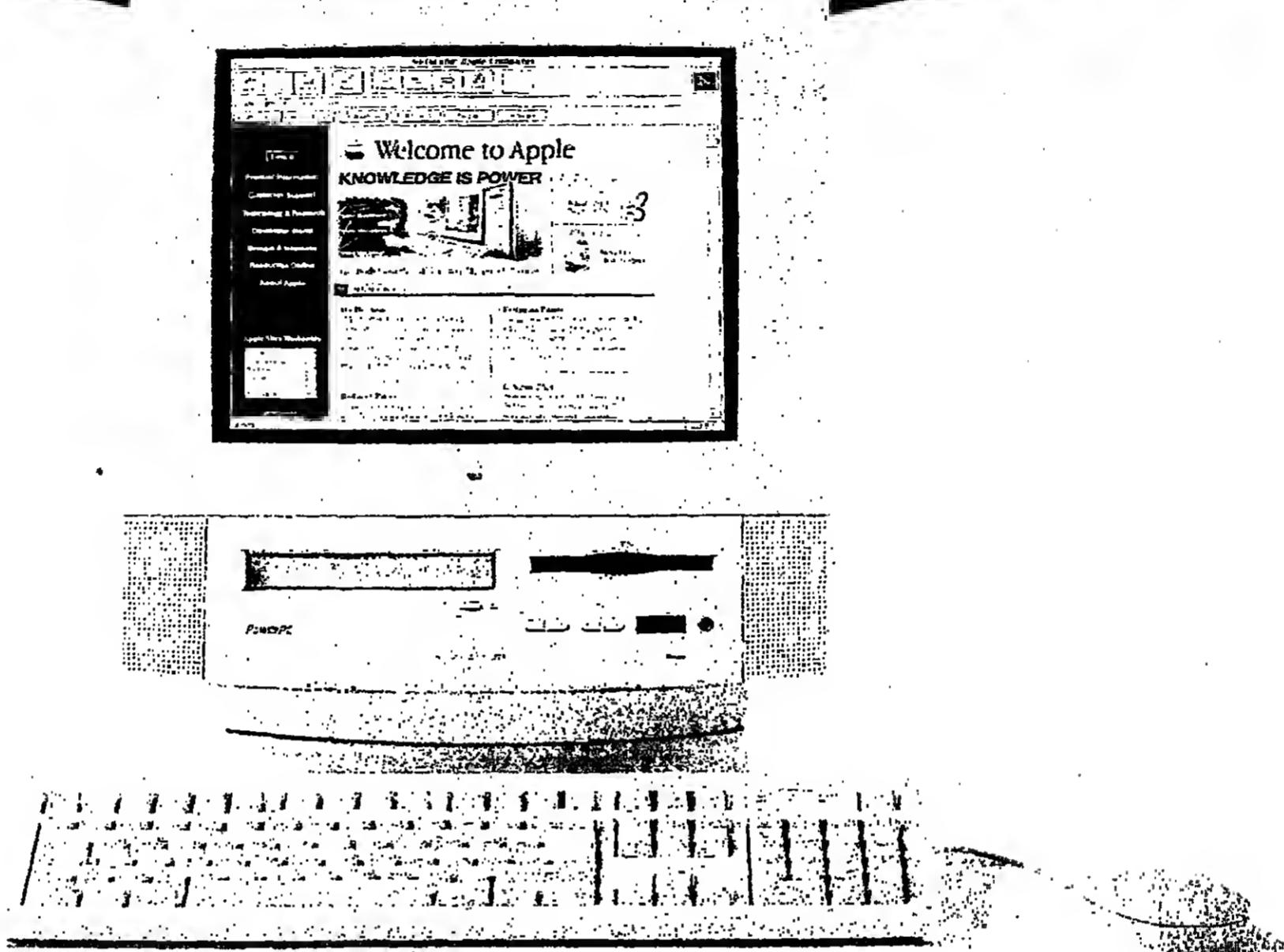
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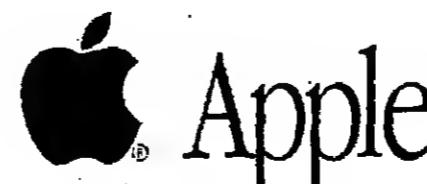
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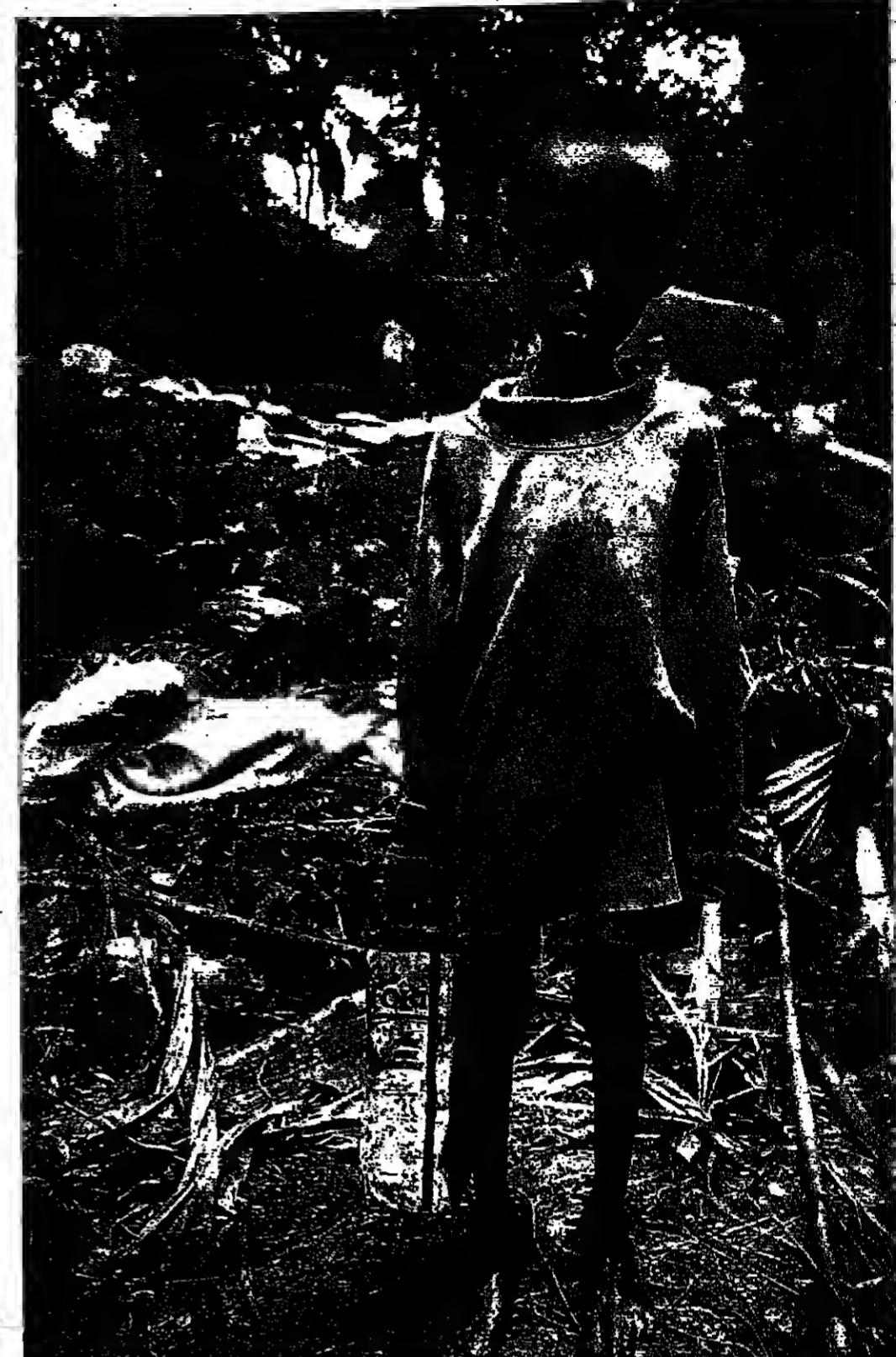


international

Agony of Zaire's exiled innocents



Misery: A child's face shows the horrifying toll of a recent forced march by Rwandan exiles towards a refugee point at Kisesa



Long march: About 30,000 refugees, including this boy, have reached the village of Biaro, 26 miles from Kisangani. Many have walked very far and suffer severe wounds and sickness.

UN battles to cope with refugees

David Fox
Reuter

Kisangani - United Nations agencies, accused by Rwanda's government of delaying repatriation, struggled yesterday to clear a backlog of some 2,000 Rwandan refugees waiting to be airlifted home from Zaire.

Aid officials said a train with more than 1,200 refugees pulled into Kisangani on Wednesday night and workers scrambled to cram them in a transit camp near the city's largest airport.

The train, the second to arrive on Wednesday, was organised by the Tutsi-dominated rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL). The sudden influx threatened to overwhelm UN fa-

cilities. The rebels were condemned last week for blocking access to the refugees.

"There is a sense that so much attention was paid to the obstacles we encountered that they are now eager to show how many people they can

bring up to Kisangani," UNHCR spokesman Paul Stromberg said.

But yesterday Rwanda's government accused the UN of delaying repatriation and said it was ready to work directly with the AFDL. The govern-

ment statement contrasted with UN, European Union and US expressions of concern this week about the treatment of the Hutu refugees by the Tutsi-dominated rebels. The refugees fled Rwanda in 1994 and are accused

of minority Tutsi of genocide in Rwanda. Aid officials estimated the backlog in Kisangani at about 2,300 refugees yesterday. Mr Stromberg said agencies had so far located only 20,000 of nearly 100,000 refugees

south of Kisangani and "at a certain point we will have to turn our attention to finding the others."

After weeks of delaying a UN airlift, rebels said on Sunday that UN agencies had 60 days to repatriate all Rwandan refugees. UN officials have

said it is impossible to repatriate all

100,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees south

of Kisangani and another 250,000 un-

accounted for in Zaire within 60 days.

There was considerable confusion over the timing of talks between President Mobutu Sese Seko and the rebel leader Laurent Kabila. They were originally scheduled for today and were then said to have been put off until tomorrow because the harbour in Libreville cannot accommodate the ship they plan to meet on.

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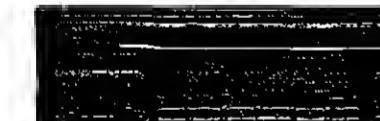


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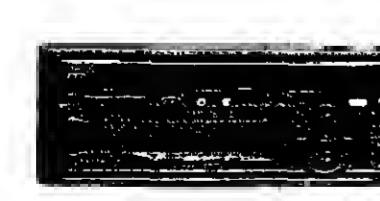


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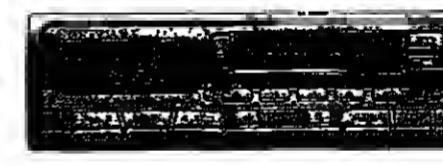


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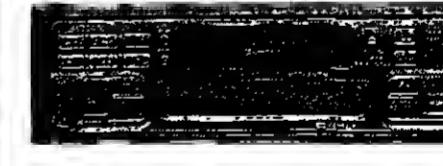
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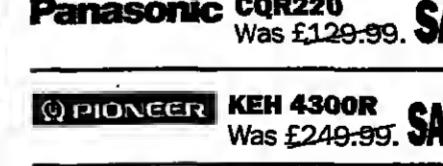
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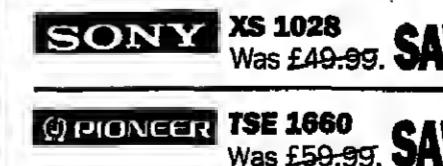
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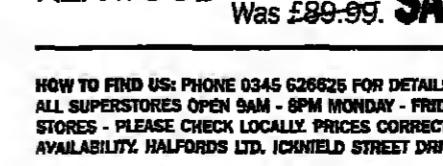
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Left and right fight the battle of May Day

Inre Karacs
Bonn

Right-wing extremists and their left-wing allies clashed in several German cities and fought running battles with police in what has now become a traditional May Day celebration.

In Berlin, about 7,000 people attended two separate "revolutionary demonstrations" – one in the East's Prenzlauer Berg and the other in Kreuzberg in the West. Police had braced themselves for violence on a scale matching the notorious riots of 10 years ago, but by last night the toll stood at fewer than 20 burnt-out cars and a few smashed shop windows. Dozens of those involved in stone-throwing incidents were detained.

Contrary to all expectations, the day's worst violence flared not in eastern Germany, but in the quiet town of Münster, near Hanover in the West. One policeman was seriously injured there after a clash between about 300 right-wingers, led by the neo-Nazi firebrand Thorsteo Heise, and a smaller group of left-wing "Autonomes". About 150 right-wingers were arrested.

The neo-Nazis were believed to belong to the NPD, the nationalist party which had tried all day to stage a mass demonstration somewhere to the east. Initially, the NPD had called for a rally in Leipzig, in front of the monument commemorating Napoleon's defeat on German soil.

This was however, banned by the local authorities, and a force of 4,500 policemen ringed the monument yesterday to prevent a gathering.

The NPD had boasted that 70,000 people would be turning up for its demo, but by last night there were sightings of only small groups of their adherents in isolated towns. Small groups of neo-Nazis were detained in Dortmund, Aschaffenburg and Wiesbaden.

In Leipzig about 150 left-wing extremists expressed disappointment over their enemies' failure to show up by pelting police with rocks and fireworks. Leipzig was also the focal point of the national trade unions' May Day festivities, culminating in a 20,000-strong rally.

Union leaders and opposition politicians called for action to resist the policies of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government.

significant shorts

Australian takes on top UN weapons-control job

Australia's ambassador to the United Nations was named to succeed Rolf Ekeus as chairman of the UN team that inspects Iraqi weapons sites. Richard Butler will take over as chairman of the UN Special Commission on Iraq, known as UNSCOM. Mr Ekeus will take a new post as Sweden's ambassador to the United States. He has been chief of the commission since it was formed in 1991 to monitor Iraq's compliance with UN disarmament demands imposed after the Gulf War. Mr Butler has considerable experience in dealing with weapons issues. He played a big role last year in saving the treaty banning nuclear-weapons test explosions by successfully pushing it through the UN General Assembly despite strong objections from India.

AP - New York

Nadir vows to return to Turkey

The fugitive Turkish Cypriot tycoon Asil Nadir vowed to return to Turkey, four years after jumping bail in Britain. He said from his home in northern Cyprus that his visit was imminent, but gave no further details. He has in the past invested in electronics companies, a hotel and the media in Turkey. He did not elaborate on the nature of any future investments there. Mr Nadir fled in May 1993 while awaiting trial on theft and false-accounting charges following the collapse of his London-based Polly Peck fruits-to-electronics empire. He still has media, banking and tourism interests in breakaway northern Cyprus.

Reuters - Ankara

'Elvira Madigan' director dies

Bo Widerberg, who directed the acclaimed film *Elvira Madigan* and was nominated three times for an Academy Award, died aged 66. He died in a hospital in Ängelholm, southern Sweden, of a long illness. His most recent Oscar nomination was in 1996, for *All Things Fair*, about an intense relationship between a 15-year-old high-school student and his 37-year-old female teacher. The previous nominations were in 1964 for *Raven's End* and in 1969 for *Adalen 31*. Widerberg, noted for his sharp realism, began his artistic career as a novelist, then branched into film in 1963 with *The Baby Carriage*. He was often at odds with Ingmar Bergman.

AP - Stockholm

Buyer sought for death house

The mansion where 39 Heaven's Gate cult members killed themselves has been taken off the market while a crew strips, guts and restores it. The owner, Sam Koutoulasfahani, plans to move back in before trying again to sell it, said Randall Bell, whose firm is overseeing the restoration. "Unfortunately, there's a smell throughout the entire house."

AP - Rancho Santa Fe

Wiesel heads Holocaust fund

After weeks of arguing with international Jewish leaders, the Swiss government appointed Elie Wiesel as honorary chairman of a seven-member board to run a multi-million dollar fund for Holocaust victims. The Nobel laureate and concentration-camp survivor, who is joined by two Israelis on the panel, will have the title "doyen international chairman" but no special powers, said the Foreign Minister, Flavio Cotti.

AP - Berne

Yemeni poll toll rises to 21

A Yemeni journalist was killed and four other people injured when supporters of rival candidates in Yemen's general election exchanged fire outside a polling station. The killing raised to at least 21 the number of poll-related deaths.

Reuters - Sanaa

US move on Gulf war illness

Former US Senator Warren Rudman will become a special adviser to the President on Gulf war illnesses. The appointment was decided on after a White House panel found the military was not moving fast enough to find whether American troops may have been exposed to chemical weapons during the Gulf War.

AP - New York

Elephant death acquittal

A German was acquitted of responsibility for the death of a woman killed in Zimbabwe when the minibus he was driving hit an elephant. Despite their size, elephants are notoriously difficult to see in the dark and a judge ruled that the presence of an animal in the town centre could not be anticipated by a foreign driver.

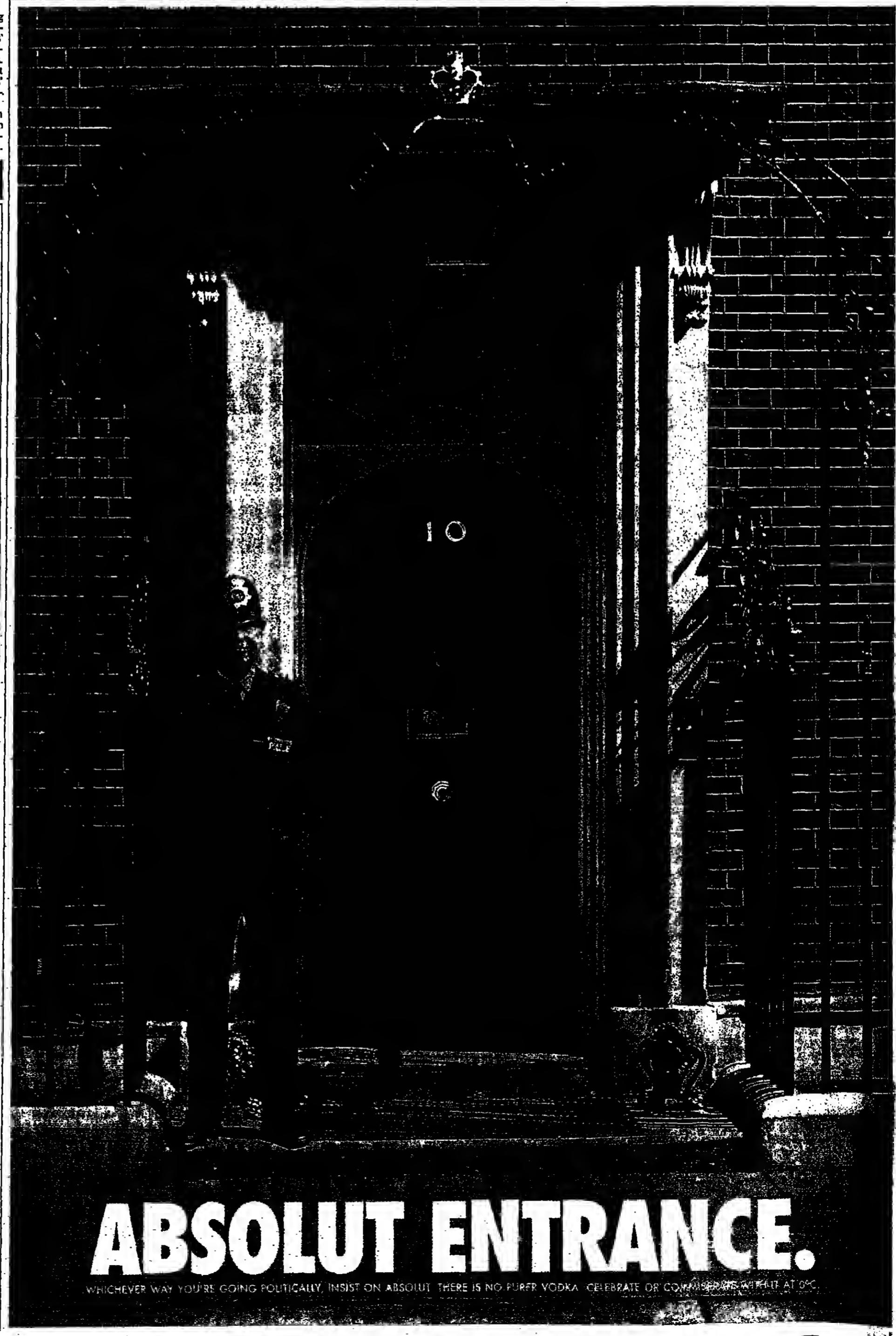
AP - Victoria Falls

متحف الراحل

international



Waiting game: Texas state troopers gather to change shifts during the stand-off between police and armed separatists at Fort Davis. On Tuesday night, at the end of day four of the stand-off, Richard McLaren, leader of the self-styled Republic of Texas, broke off all contact with negotiators. Photograph: Reuters



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Backlash threatens to silence informers

Italy's proposed law to restrict protection for Mob 'pentiti' could put vital evidence at risk

Andrew Gumbel
Palermo

A year ago, the notorious Cosa Nostra killer Giovanni Brusca was arrested in Palermo and everybody cheered. This was the man, after all, who pressed the button that set off the bomb that blew up the heroic anti-Mafia magistrate Giovanni Falcone in May 1992. This was the man, too, who had punished a Mafia informer by dissolving the body of his 11-year-old son in an acid bath.

Then last summer Brusca decided he too would start collaborating with the justice authorities and the cheering suddenly went quiet. Did the

The new MAFIA

state really want to start offering protection, not to mention a salary and the promise of judicial leniency, to a monster of a man nicknamed *U Verru*, The Pig? Could his confessions really be trusted, let alone merit a reward?

Thus began the most prominent debate surrounding the whole issue of informers, or *pentiti*, "repentant" mafiosi, as they are internally known. In the first three months, much of what Brusca said turned out to be either unverifiable or false, and a growing chorus of politicians called for a tightening of the whole collaboration system.

Then last month Brusca suggested that some of his fellow

informers had committed murders while under the state's witness protection scheme, and the same crowd of politicians wondered whether a *pentito* could ever be trusted again.

The public concerns are understandable, but unfortunately they are based on a fundamental ignorance of the way that Mafia collaboration works. Moreover, the debate has been skewed by a section of the political class with a direct interest in discrediting all evidence based on the testimony of wrong-doers, not just members of the Mafia.

The risk now is that the whole system of collaboration, an invaluable resource for prosecutors which is responsible for more than half of all investigations into the Mafia now underway, will be undermined by a new law about to go before parliament.

A published draft of the law rightly recognises that too many informers and their families – more than 8,000 people, all told – are being protected regardless of the quality of the testimony they have to offer, and it attempts to sort them into different categories. But it also mangles would-be collaborators to tell everything they know, and within a very limited time scale, before they can find out if they qualify for a witness protection scheme.

Since it can take months for informers to start giving really valuable information, and several years before they attack the most sensitive subjects such as the Mafia's relationship with politics, the quality of the evidence is almost sure to go down. Not only that, but most mafiosi might feel that revealing



Face of death: Killer Giovanni Brusca being escorted by police to Palermo jail after a court appearance

Photograph: Toni Gentile/Reuters

ing all, with no guarantee of a quid pro quo, is reason enough to keep their mouths firmly shut.

"We don't think witnesses will tell everything they know in the allotted time period, only as much as they think they need to," said the Palermo prosecutor, Antonio Ingroia. "And after the six months are up they will be required to attest that

they have nothing more to say, thus barring them from ever testifying again, even if they want to."

The first Mafia informer, Tommaso Buscetta, still has not stopped talking after 13 years.

Since the confidence of Mafia informers depends crucially on the commitment of the state to combat organised crime and of-

fer true protection to those who disassociate themselves from it, evidence inevitably comes in waves over a long period of time.

The public concerns about occasional disinformation are misplaced, first because everything is rigorously checked against other witnesses and material evidence, and secondly because lies are part of the long

process of evolution that mafiosi go through when they decide to turn state's evidence. Brusca, in fact, has not yet proved reliable enough to be considered a full informer – he is described as a *dichiarante*, or talking witness.

"These people might even go back and commit crimes, but that doesn't change the fact that what they previously said may be true."

Why is the most successful

gaining with these people for information," said Pier Luigi Vigna, Italy's top anti-Mafia prosecutor and a man with long experience of judicial interrogation of witnesses.

"In a closed world like a terrorist group, if you capture the top five or ten leaders the whole thing falls apart. But the Mafia is not like that," Mr Vigna said. "The Mafia is not closed to the world, indeed in certain places it is the world."

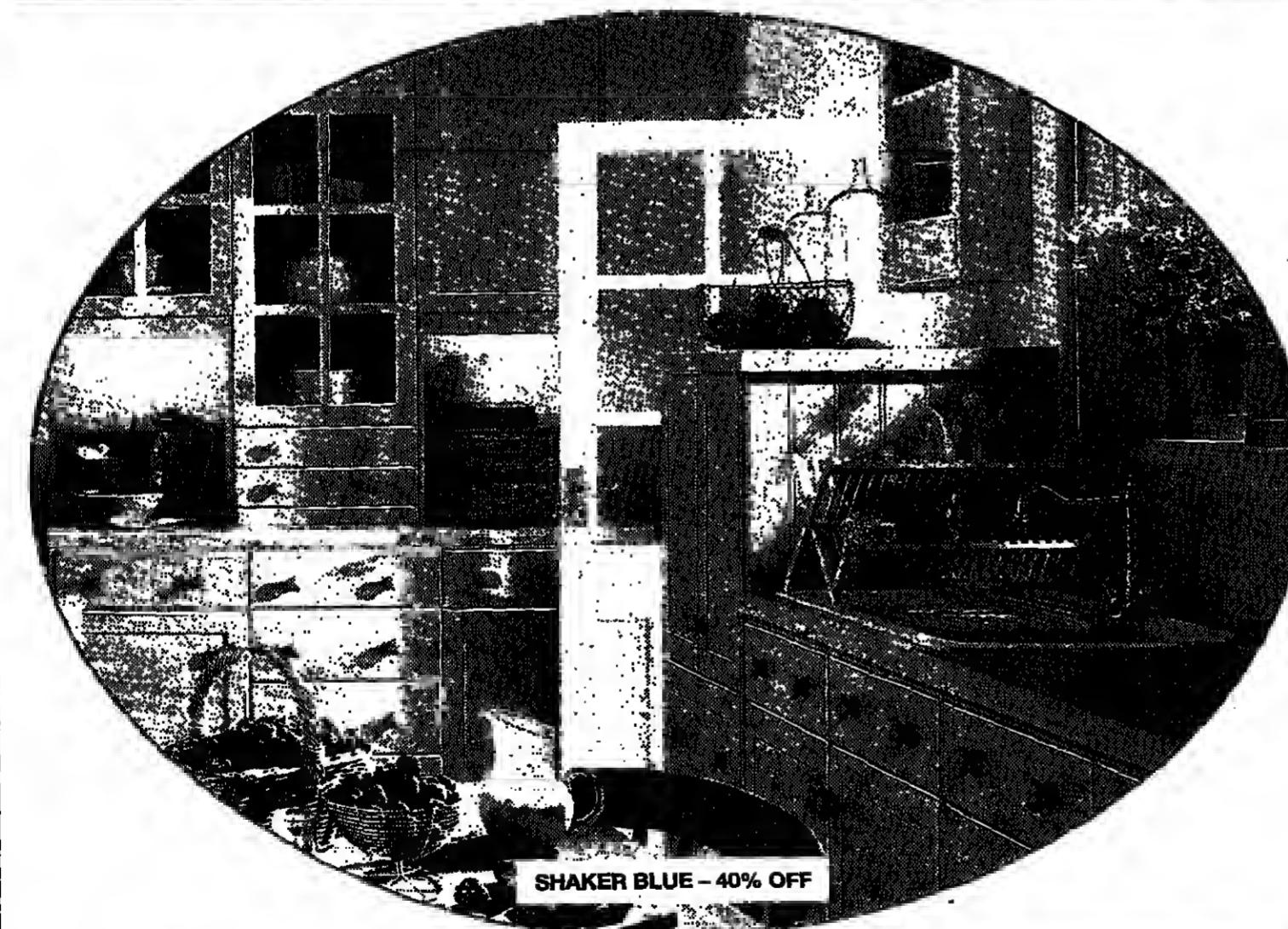
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Food for thought

Children of Oz fight a new wicked witch

It is five months since my wife and I saw in 1997 at a particularly swell New Year's Eve bash that boasted a Wizard of Oz theme. All the guests were presented with munchkin hats of varying degrees of absurdity and one wall of the party room was hung with a canvas depicting, of course, the yellow brick road vanishing onto a prairie horizon.

The elaborate decor had not been crafted just for our benefit, unappreciative and mostly drunken we were. Rather, it was the first fruit of a marathon undertaking by a group of parents to help the local Greenwich elementary school produce the *Wizard of Oz* a few weeks later in the spring. As many of the children as possible were to take part – Dorothy, after all, can have as many munchkin friends as the stage will allow – and the set and costumes were to be as extravagant as possible.

With a cast of 260 excited five- to seven-year-olds, the curtain is due at last to rise on *Oz* tonight. Whether it will, however, has suddenly become a matter of conjecture. In a twist of events that is worthy of a musical score of its own, it seems that only President Bill Clinton (being pressed to take the role of the Wizard) can save a situation that threatens to put a headmistress in court and eventually even in jail.

Guess what: the lawyers have arrived. (That modern American species that make even better villains than politicians and journalists). Never mind that we are talking about the thrill of children treading a stage for the first time in their lives. This is Greenwich, Connecticut – which to lawyers means dollars. The fact that the Julian Curtiss School is state-funded and is the least well endowed of all the town's schools is unimportant.

The school received verbal permission from MGM,

owner of the film, more than a year ago to put on a production adapted from the film but containing most of its music.

Suddenly this week, however – three days before curtain-up – it received a "cease and desist" letter from another company, Tams-Witmark Music Library Inc, saying that, on the contrary, staging *Oz* requires separate permission which the school did not have.

Addressed to Nancy Carbone, the school principal, Tams-Witmark said: "It is not permissible to use the music from the movie with a script ob-

tailed elsewhere. We require that you remove all of the MGM music from your production and that you notify us by return fax that this has been done."

A stunned Ms Carbone also took a phone call from Tams-Witmark's lawyer threatening criminal proceedings.

Of all this, the kids so far know nothing. But their parents, galled beyond description, have not dallied in fighting back. It has not helped their mood to know that the lawyer doing the threatening happens also to be a Greenwich resident with young children of his own.

They do not go to Julian Curtiss, however, but instead to one of the town's several expensive private academies.

And these are not parents short of media savvy. As I write, an NBC television news team from New York is expected at the school to report on the sorry story.

Meanwhile, one comment during the lawyer's phone call has spurred another course of action. Unadvisedly, perhaps, he suggested to Ms Carbone that even if it was the President of the United States who was staging *Oz* without proper permission he, too, would be pursued in the courts.

Understanding precisely how Mr Clinton's antennae are attuned to just this sort of collision of things human and legal, the parents of one seven-year-old from the cast, Susan, swiftly placed her at the keyboard and clicked into e-mail mode. Her message should be reaching the President just about now.

"Dear Sir, they say they would even threaten you. Can't you help us, please?" The Munchkins. (I paraphrase).

It is perhaps Susan's bad luck that this is not an election year. Otherwise, Mr Clinton would surely have thrown the full might of the White House at the kindly institution of Tams-Witmark in rather the manner that Dorothy's house at the start of *Oz* atop the Wicked Witch of the North.

For a president struggling for re-election it would have been an irresistible script. Maybe, we can only hope, it still will be.

Late news, just in: Yessss! As *The Independent* went to press, Tams-Witmark caved in. It all goes to show: e-mails and television crews have their uses. The munchkins are ready to celebrate.

David Usborne



Rainbow alliance: Dorothy and her friends the Straw Man, Tin Man and Lion

China reaches across the sea to Taiwan

with Organisation's international drug conference at Uppsala last week. These crude measures, however, do not solve doctors' concerns over the quality of medicine available.

"Nevertheless, the day is

not far off when we will see

similar problems," says Dr

John Teng, director of the

International Institute of

Medical Problems.

He adds: "The Chinese

are very good at

marketing their products."

Dr Teng, who has been

invited to speak at the

conference, says: "I am

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essay

18 years of Tory rule? Sorry, I missed it

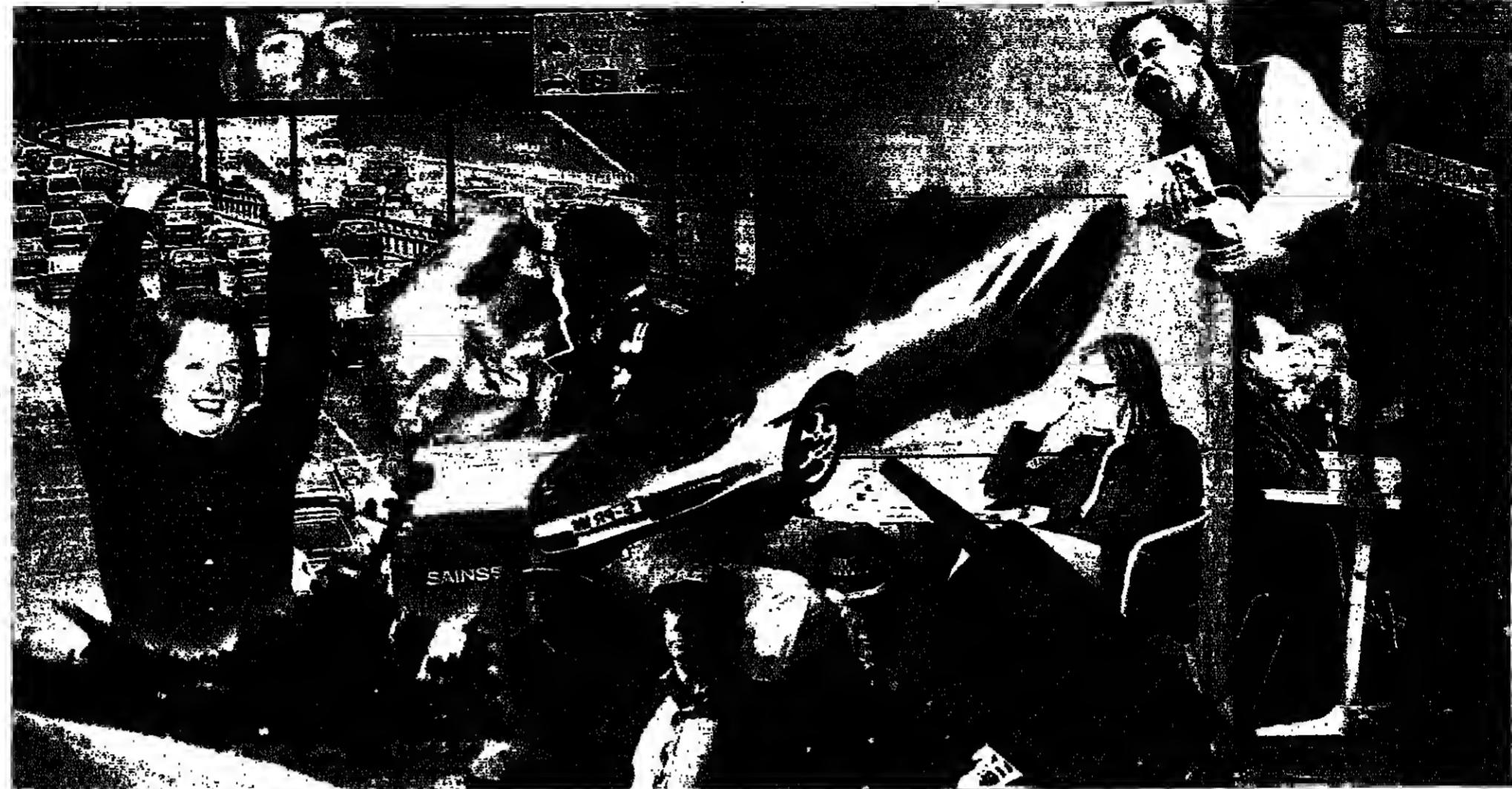
Half the population has no memory of a Labour Britain. Rupert Cornwell, however, never experienced the upheavals of the Conservative era. Now he's back in a land that has been transformed since he left in 1978

Barring the very end of the endgame, I missed it all: every queenly "we" from the Lady herself, every pursed-lipped retreat by her successor, the greed of the Roaring Eighties and the sourness of the Nineties, privatisation and the vanquishing of the unions, the dysfunctions of the Royal Family and the collapse of English cricket – in short the lot. Everything, all 18 years of Tory rule. Labour was when I left for Italy in October 1978, having been a political correspondent for the *Financial Times*. Now, four consecutive foreign postings and one newspaper later, I am back. And Labour it will surely be again when the cock crows at dawn today.

Half the population, it is said, have no memory of a Labour Britain. Having been abroad throughout the Heath years too, I have no memory of a Conservative one. Apart from their official visits to countries where I lived, Margaret Thatcher and John Major are the Prime Ministers who never were. My abiding image of the Commons is a scowling James Callaghan stalking the committee corridor followed by a posse of nervous retainers. As far as I am concerned, he is being succeeded by the sweet-smiling but evidently super-disciplined Tony Blair. There is, alas, one problem: in between, Britain and British politics have been transformed. The returning time traveller seeks to regain his bearings, yearning for the familiar. It ain't easy.

Old Labour, New Labour — Old Britain, New Britain. This is a richer place, but also rougher, tougher, coarser and unkindler. The reserve and pseudogentleness that still flourished in the late Seventies have gone. For proof, just look at my business, where even the "quality press" has turned into brassy propaganda sheets, and articles about sex adorn every other page. Who said the British are prudish? Divisions of class are giving way to less stark divisions of wealth. Clearly, however, there is no desire for a return to pre-Thatcher: rather for a nudge back towards the centre and a more caring capitalism, where somebody remembers the poor, the infirm and the less gifted.

The quest for pre-Thatcher political fates is equally arduous. I found three on the BBC TV panel assembled by Robin Day each morning. But they were



not active politicians but listed national monuments: Norman Tebbit, the semi-housetrained polecat turned benign sauna-bar sage; an ever jowlier Roy Hattersley for Labour's corner, and sage Roy Jenkins for the Liberal Democrats – flirting with self-parody but retaining enough authority to make one wonder what might have been if he succeeded Harold Wilson in 1976.

Others I remember from the late Seventies are very much in business. A then eager beaver from Tory Central Office research department called Michael Portillo now needs no introduction. Nor does William Hague, star-turn for the *Thatcher-jugend*, who I discover on my return has been installed by the bookies as co-favourite with Portillo to become the next party leader. But their hands will not be on the levers of power in the new parliament. As for today's party leaders, they weren't even MPs when I last prowled Westminster. John Major was still a rising executive at the Standard Chartered Bank. Tony Blair was in London law chambers as a labour lawyer, while Paddy Ashdown was working for Westland helicopters in Yeovil.

Of the Blairite high command, only Robin Cook was an MP, remembered by me as an ornery left-wing opponent of devolution. Now he is poised to star in

a Labour government that may genuinely deserve. But that is the tiniest of the adjustments to be made.

In the Seventies Britain I left, Cabinet meetings mattered less for the governance of the country than those infamous beer and sandwich sessions at Downing Street when we hung on every utterance of Messrs Murray, Jones and Scanlon. Some say the unions are plotting an early test of Blair, but to my shame I cannot even name today's general secretary of the TUC. Back then, the miners and the dockers were the mightiest constituencies in the land, the latter overweening enough to demand the Dock Labour Regulation Bill, which gave them a cargo-handling monopoly within five miles of a dockyard. Thanks to the defection of two moderate Labour MPs, the bill would be defeated, forcing the minority Callaghan government into the Lib-Lab pact. Looking back, what is amazing is not that the measure failed, but that it was ever put forward at all.

And where oh where is the National Executive Committee? Back then each meeting of the NEC was a bloodbath, a monthly ritual of left-wing rebellion only quashed by a threat by Callaghan to resign. Today Blair apparently controls all but two seats on the executive. As for the miners, the number of pits still open, I am told, has dropped from many hundreds to 29. In both Parliament and the country, the hard left is vanquished. These days, if anyone practices "entryism", it is not the militant Trotskyites who used to stage constituency committee ambushes on over-moderate sitting MPs, but the Blairites bent on eradicating the last of what Mikhail Gorbachev called "old thinking". At Westminster the once fearsome Tribune group has become a flock of lambs, and in the process rendered the now disbanded Manifesto group superfluous.

Or take Europe. At Westminster the issue has always generated civil war, but the combatants are reversed. In those

days Labour's pro- and anti-marketeers feuded over issues like proportional voting for the Strasbourg parliament, and most of them saw Europe as citadel of the claret-slipping boss class, and Roy Jenkins as the ultimate betrayer of socialism and national sovereignty. Their successors have long concluded that Brussels is a more dependable protector of a British working man's rights than home-grown Conservatives preaching unfettered market economics.

But this transformation – and every other by-product of the Thatcher revolution – I only observed from afar. Already in Rome when she was elected, I followed the Falklands conflict from a deeply ambivalent Italy. By the time she routed the miners in 1984-85, I had moved on to Bonn. From Moscow I watched the stunning Kremlin coup in London which overthrew her. By the time John Major won election in his own right, I was in Washington, safely removed from sterling's humiliating ejection from the ERM in September 1992, and the *fin de régime* air which settled upon the Conservatives thereafter. I have only seen the final death throes of Tory government – not so much the thrashing of a mighty tail as the few faint twitches of an already despatched corpse.

But for one returning from the US, New Labour is old news. The similarities of Blair vs Major 1997 and Clinton vs Dole 1996 are overwhelming – the shift of the entire political spectrum in both countries to the right, the fixation on the leaders to the exclusion of all else, the shameless stealing of opponents' best issues, the deliberate lack of specifics, and the retreat into thunderous banality whenever awkward detail presses. Certainly, Blair appears to function on a higher plane of personal morality than the irredeemably tacky Clinton. But who are the greater scoundrels: American presidential candidates with "their mantra of 'The Greatest Nation on Earth'" or their counterparts here, promising to be "British patriots" who will take no nonsense from the continentals (Blair, Major, Ashdown, *passim*)? I even heard one of them talk about "restoring the British Dream". Next time around, it will be every speech ending with "God Bless the United Kingdom".

Already, though, and undeniably,

the Almighty is looking more kindly on his British subjects than two decades ago. My two years as a lobby correspondent for the *Financial Times* must have been the nadir of post-war Britain, symbolised by Denis Healey's U-turn on the road to London airport and the subsequent stand-by loan from the International Monetary Fund, which came close to splitting the cabinet. Labour then was as detested as the Conservatives now: my very first assignment was Labour's stunning by-election defeat in its citadel of Workington – a punishment all too familiar of late to Major's Conservatives.

But the most fitting emblem of the age was the Thorpe affair, a Krakatoa of a scandal featuring a dead dog, a murder plot, and the disgrace of the leader of England's oldest political party. Above all, though, it was a metaphor for the state of the country, of hubris exposed, reputations destroyed and illusions stripped away. Compared to Thorpe, the sleaze eruptions of the Major years, it seems to me, reflect more an ever-growing media obsession with sex and money than any abrupt collapse of political morality.

Musing last month on the state of pre-electoral Britain, *Die Zeit* lamented the passing of old imperial graces and likened contemporary Britain to a "Switzerland in the North Sea": selfish, smug and stubborn. But that is surely preferable to being an offshore version of the Ottoman Empire, circa 1900, which Britain was passably imitating when I left after Callaghan funked an early election in October 1978.

Two decades and four lost elections later, both the Labour Party he leads and the country Blair inherits are utterly different. His England is far more efficient, businesslike and productive than

From miners to Major, Lady Di to Loadsamoney: changes in the political and cultural landscape

the one I remember – though I still can't believe we have turned from sick man of Europe into the leader of the new capitalism. Unarguably, the place is simultaneously both more American and more European: the former visible not only in the political process but in the language, the fabric of daily life and culture – for worse and for better. If British television increasingly resembles the vapid American networks, what miracle has overtaken our telephone system? Services such as directory enquiries used to be a refined form of water torture. Now they yield nothing to their American equivalents.

As for Europe, who can stop its encroachment? Certainly, and deliciously, not Thatcher's children desperate to defend their island fortress. Our politicians may mock the Continent, but when Battersea is full of French and Italian restaurants and they sing "La Marseillaise" at Old Trafford, you realise the limits of little England. In this interdependent world national rivalries may be played out on the sports field, but not so fiercely as to prevent Eric Cantona becoming an honorary Englishman. That would never have happened in Callaghan's day.

At which point a thought impinges. Maybe Britain, ever pulled in opposite directions across the Channel and the Atlantic, is for once getting the best of both worlds. Thus does London become what *Newsweek* and the like extol as the coolest city on the planet, a *distinction whose main effect*, to my silent fury, is to add a few more thousand pounds to the cost of the house I must buy. And truly there is a hit of a fizz in the air, so different from Callaghan's resigned and sullen land, waiting for its chance to throw the rascals out. They did, and this week sees the passing of a Tory era. For me though, it is the belated funeral of a vanished Labour England.

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Offer also applies to spouses

The jokes that time forgot



I was saying the other day that *The Guardian* was once known as the home of misprints, but that it had shaken off that reputation, we had a new one. I suggested the *Radio Times* as a source of misprints and asked for offerings, which of course led to many kind readers sending me misprints from *The Independent*, so I'll hold fire on that one for a while...

But the idea of Aunt Sally generally is an interesting one, the way in which something can be exceedingly funny to everyone one year and be forgotten the next. One year we think it is hilarious to say "Norway – nul points", and the next we wonder why we ever laughed. Nothing ever stays funny (except perhaps sex, death and other people's misfortunes). Our favourite targets fall out of fashion and are forgotten.

There was a time, not so long ago, when you could get an instant laugh by invoking the name of Group 4. Not any more. We still remember, sort of, that Group 4 became accident-prone for a while and kept losing things and people it

was guarding, but it's a distant memory now and too faint to raise a laugh.

Historians will have to tell us why we laughed.

Similarly, I can remember my father laughing at comedians on the radio making fun of the groundnut scheme and Beveridge, and rationing, and nylon stockings. It must be a good many years since anyone got a laugh out of the groundnut scheme, yet the equivalent of the groundnut scheme is always turning up.

In the last week or two, Channel 5 has become an instant laugh object. I can't get Channel 5 and I don't want to, but even I know enough about it to register jokes about it. (Mark you, I can also remember a time when Channel 4 was good for instant laughs, as a symbol of all that was pretentious and avant-garde and unwatchable.)

I have heard comedians in the last few weeks get laughs out of the Spice Girls ("I'll scream if I hear the one about Old Spice Girls again") and I have heard the jokes about Dudley Moore coming back to do pantomime in

school, people were still making Oscar Wilde jokes.

(I can even remember one. Here it is. Oscar Wilde comes out of prison and checks into a hotel, where he is seen going to his room with one of the hotel's page boys. He is stopped by the hotel manager, who says: "Oh, Mr Wilde – I thought you were going to turn over a new leaf!" "So I am," says Wilde, "but I think I'll just get to the bottom of this page first..." At the age of 13, when I had never heard of Oscar Wilde and wasn't aware of homosexuality, this joke took some explaining.)

Oscar Wilde had heard a host of jokes in his lifetime, of course, whether at the hands of Gilbert and Sullivan, or *Punch*, or the music hall, but we are told that jokes about the Royal Family are something new, and that respect has always precluded them being made an Aunt Sally. This may be true in this country, but not elsewhere.

Edward VII, when Prince of Wales, was regarded abroad not as a future monarch but as a lecherous old brute. When he went to Paris, his female companion

was not always the woman to whom he was married, and on one of these occasions some French humorist inserted in the French papers an advertisement saying:

"Princess Alexandra wishes it to be known that she is the rightful Princess of Wales, and that anyone else trading under that name or carrying out her functions with the Prince of Wales is an impostor and should be treated as such."

One cannot imagine anyone in Victorian England making such a joke. Nowadays people do joke about the Prince of Wales, but in a very different way, and one day we will have to have the jokes about him talking to the flowers explained as well, just as young people today have no idea why we once laughed at the very mention of George Brown being drunk, or the Red Dean, or Sabrina, or the unfinished Sydney Opera House, or Red-Robbo, or parking meters, or Mrs Mills, or Andrew Lloyd Webber, or Centre Point, or Brendan Behan, or the Sinclair C5 ...

Did someone say, or John Major?

Why the military is still no place for a woman



Mary Dejevsky

In the rush to declare the US army an 'equal opportunity employer', its very nature may have been overlooked

Responses to the case have been predictably split. To opponents of equal opportunities for women in the armed forces, the Delmar Simpson case seems only to confirm the view that mixing the sexes in the military is asking for trouble. Temptation is put in everyone's way, discipline is put at risk. For supporters of women in the forces, the case only confirms their view that the prevailing atmosphere in the army is hostile to women. They welcomed the trial, and the verdict, as a sign that women recruits' allegations about sexual harassment, and worse, are at last being taken seriously, but they noted that the number of cases still outstanding shows how far there is to go.

In between these straightforward responses, however, lies a host of complexities that reveal what a tangled web the US has woven in mixing army training. The official position is clear. Women recruits can train alongside men and, following a Congress decision of 1988, may take combat roles. However, "fraternisation" across ranks – often a euphemism for sexual relations – is an offence; so is adultery. Punishment ranges from a reprimand and counselling through dismissal and forfeiture of pension, to court martial and prison.

This is the theory. But if only a fraction of the allegations about what went on at the Aberdeen training centre are true – "Consensual sex was rampant at army base", said a *Washington Post* headline – the clear disciplinarian line was far from being universal practice. The three-month army training course at Aberdeen is said to have been regarded by many recruits, men and women alike, as one long party. Officers speak of finding liquor bottles and used condoms littering dormitory floors when they came on duty each morning. The women, it is said, enjoyed being outnumbered by men. The officers and instructors, who were predominantly male, found them-

selves in the paradisiacal situation of having almost instant access to young women who were under orders to "obey".

Obedience, though, takes many forms. Evidence given by a dozen or so women trainees to the Aberdeen court martial indicated that some "obeyed" out of fear, others out of ambition. Some admitted to "consensual" sex. The latter is an offence that could end their career; the former, which absolves them of responsibility, ruins only the man's career while leaving their own intact.

While there is an suggestion from the reported evidence that Simpson's trial was anything but fair, it is possible to argue that the court martial jury, consisting of five men (three white, two black) and one woman (white), might have felt under pressure, given the climate of US opinion, not to run scared of a rape conviction. It also seems that the armed forces are applying the rules on sexual relations with a new rigour in an attempt to avoid embarrassing charges of cover-ups (as in the Tailhook sexual harassment incident six years ago, when female naval recruits were made to run a gauntlet of lewd and drunken

officers). This throws up hard cases and leaves the forces treading a very fine line between enforcing military discipline for the general good and dictating personal morality for its own sake.

An egregious example is that of Kelly Flinn, at 26 the only woman pilot of a B52 bomber. After expensive training, which she completed as top of her class, she is now suspended from duty, awaiting court martial next month for adultery. The charge relates to an affair with a civilian soccer coach who was in the process of divorcing his wife. Because her lover was married, the affair was regarded as a breach of military discipline.

Actually, the opposite is true – we are obsessed with sexual difference. Books are sold on the sole basis that they explain the difference between the sexes, or that they tell each gender how to communicate with the other. We worry that girls are doing better than boys, that men have lost the traditional crutches of their identity, that women are becoming more violent. Yet we still carry on carrying on with each other, making the best of a bad lot.

Many analysts, whether male or female, are in rough agreement about one thing. The problems we are facing are not to do with the fact that women are becoming like men, or even that they are not womanly enough. The problem is that men are too much like

men and must learn to be a little less so if any progress is to be made.

Still, enough of masculinity in crisis.

We don't want to upset the poor bugger. Instead, we must assume power without them even knowing, so that they don't feel a thing.

If the Fluffy Manifesto wasn't enough, one can always be a Princess. *The Princess*, written by Harriet Rubin (published by Bloomsbury in May), is

Will men surrender to the Fluffragettes?

by Suzanne Moore

Today may be a good day to talk about women and power, as more women enter Parliament than ever before. But the important political question that must be addressed is where they stand on the Fluffy issue.

The Fluffy Manifesto, "the most significant new movement for women since Germaine Greer wrote *The Female Eunuch*", was launched last week in the *Daily Mail* by Cherri Gilham. Already prominent Fluffragettes are rushing to sign themselves up. The flufferati are proud to come out as giggling, pouting and cooing their way to emancipation. They must never contradict men or be aggressive. No shrieking is allowed. Eyelashes must be fluttered at all times, and the F-word, feminism, is strictly verboten.

Fluffy ladies know that real fluffiness is almost spiritual. It comes from the inside. You cannot fake it, though you may have to spend a fortune producing the femininity that is required to fool men that you are not a threat to them in any way.

I don't mind female impersonators, myself; after all, I've spent years in drag, but I draw the line at being told to think kindly of men. I must confess, also, that the central thrust of this movement – if thrust is not too virile a word – is one that I don't fully understand. The idea is apparently to put the "femininity back in to feminism", as though there has been some femininity deficit that now has to be made up for.

Has feminism drained the nation's womanhood of its most precious attributes – its lipstick, its hair spray, its essential "velvetiness"? Surely not. If that were the case, we could no longer tell men and women apart, and then God knows how we could continue to systematically discriminate against the fairer sex.

That, of course, is the great fear about feminism; that a movement designed to stop discrimination on the grounds of sexual difference will in the end do away with sexual difference itself. Everyone will be just the same, and that would not be fun.

Actually, the opposite is true – we are obsessed with sexual difference. Books are sold on the sole basis that they explain the difference between the sexes, or that they tell each gender how to communicate with the other. We worry that girls are doing better than boys, that men have lost the traditional crutches of their identity, that women are becoming more violent. Yet we still carry on carrying on with each other, making the best of a bad lot.

Many analysts, whether male or female, are in rough agreement about one thing. The problems we are facing are not to do with the fact that women are becoming like men, or even that they are not womanly enough. The problem is that men are too much like



Cherri Gilham, founder of the Fluffy Club and former TV glamour girl

They will pout their way to power. Feminism is the forbidden F-word

men and must learn to be a little less so if any progress is to be made.

Still, enough of masculinity in crisis.

We don't want to upset the poor bugger. Instead, we must assume power without them even knowing, so that they don't feel a thing.

If the Fluffy Manifesto wasn't enough, one can always be a Princess. *The Princess*, written by Harriet Rubin (published by Bloomsbury in May), is

billed as "Machiavelli for women".

Princesses know that it's OK to cry in the office, flirt with policemen, react emotionally, and wear brightly coloured clothes. Princesses are slightly fluffy but the thing about a princess is that she knows that it's war out there. Conflict, which women are taught to avoid, is always a form of contact both requiring power and building power. Machiavelli's advice to the Prince didn't, as I

recall, involve fashion tips, but I suppose you can't have everything.

The Princess is a glorified self-help book. It is full of old-fashioned advice which basically amounts to telling women to use their feminine wiles. After a lot of sub-Buddhist babble and a trawl through some tough cookies from Joan of Arc to Jacqueline Onassis, it boils down to this: a princess's weapons are clothes, voice, hair, jewellery, posture, make-up and tears.

Yes, that's right, tears are always useful. If only Joan of Arc had some tear-proof mascara, things might have been very different.

The trouble is, you see, so many of us suffer from "power anorexia". We deliberately starve ourselves of power when presumably we could be stuffing it down our throats.

Rubin and her fellow fluffles neatly sidestep the question of what power might actually be, though Rubin helpfully informs us that men crave disempowerment. Hell, why bring the real world into this? All that deadly dull stuff about equal pay, equal representation, equal rights is not the way to go. We must not play by their rules, but make our own. This highly individualised notion of power – power as a personal and psychological attribute – ignores systems, structures, institutions. It makes power something that a wily woman can achieve not by connecting with other women, but by emphasising her separateness from them, à la Margaret Thatcher.

It is true enough to say that feminism has a problem with power and has retreated from adequately addressing what it means. Many women, having bought the idea that power means having what men have now, wonder if it is worth it. Is the double shift of work and domestic labour, which means a 14-hour day, any sort of power for anyone? The result is a flight into New Age mysticism, with its accent on female spiritual power and its lack of engagement with material culture.

The third way, and the one currently officially sanctioned, are tired re-runs of female sexual power. Here the Spice Girls and Naomi Wolf come together in some multiple orgasmic universe where with enough zig-a-zig shining they can get in touch with their own inner sluts and make lots of dosh in the process.

Female aggression is no threat to anyone if it is limited to sexual aggression and then marketed as titillation. So it's 1997, and we have to choose between the fluffles, the princesses, the Spices and self-obsessed slut redeemers. Men must be quaking in their boots at the very prospect of having to take their pick from this monstrous regiment, I'm sure.

Perhaps I should cash in my chips and write a self-help book myself. I could call it *Redefining Winning: A Handbook for Happy Slappers, Born Losers* might be a better title, but I wouldn't want to sound Hitler and twisted, because let's face it, men just don't find that sort of thing very attractive.

How America bombed in Iraq

Patrick Cockburn examines the disastrous track record of the man who would run the CIA



George J Tenet is set to become director of the CIA despite the débâcle of its attempts to undermine Saddam, pictured (right) at his recent birthday celebrations



The CIA despite the débâcle of its attempts to undermine Saddam, pictured (right) at his recent birthday celebrations

he had escaped because he feared that Uday, Saddam's eldest son, would kill him. The core of the Iraqi regime seemed to be fragmenting, and for the first time in years the Iraqi leader looked vulnerable.

The instrument chosen by the CIA to foment a coup in Baghdad tells a great deal about American policy towards Iraq. It was the Iraqi National Accord (INA), one of the most conservative of the opposition organisations. Led by Dr Iyad Mohammed Alawi, a physician from Baghdad who had fled to London in 1971, it recruited army officers, intelligence officials and members of the ruling Ba'th party. It wanted to replace Saddam with a minimum of disruption.

The CIA had long supported some factions of the Iraqi opposition, though without much enthusiasm. Between 1992 and 1995, the money dropped on its covert operations against Baghdad fell from \$40m to \$15m. But in the summer of 1995, John Deutch became CIA director, with George Tenet as his deputy. American interest in the agency had fallen after the arrest as a Russian spy of Aldrich Ames, one of its senior officers. Almost immediately an opportunity to restore the agency's reputation beckoned in Iraq.

This was exactly what the CIA wanted to do. It is not exactly, as ordinary Iraqis believe, that

the US wants Saddam to stay in power. But it is determined that his fall should not benefit Iran, which supports Iraq's Shia Muslims, a majority of the population. In 1991, President George Bush allowed the Iraqi government to use helicopter gunships against Shia rebels.

The CIA was already channelling money to the INA. And to show its long reach, the US was exploding bombs in Baghdad and other cities in 1994-95. This was not difficult to do. "There are plenty of destitute Shia young men," says one Iraqi opposition leader. "They don't have a life and they don't have a future. It is easy to pay them to do something very dangerous like planting a bomb in Baghdad."

As many as 100 civilians may have been killed by the bombing campaign. At first, little was known about it. Iraq admitted that 10 bombs had exploded in Baghdad, but gave no casualty figures. But early in 1996, a strange video was smuggled to Europe, made by the CIA's chief bombmaker, Abu Amneh al-Khadimi, in his

headquarters in the Kurdish city of Sulaymaniyah. He filmed himself because he wanted to charge his superior officer with underpaying him and betraying him to Iraqi intelligence.

Abu Amneh, who comes across as a deeply unpleasant and dangerous man, recounts how he has been reduced to buying "clocks from the souk and turning them into timers". He complains that he was paid only \$300 for causing an explosion in Baghdad which had cost him \$600. He commands British-made time fuses. He appeals repeatedly over the head of his superior officer – this was a purpose of making the video – to Dr Iyad Alawi, the head of the INA. He says: "For the bombs we detonated in Baghdad, Dr Iyad, all the operations we performed inside, we are now owed about \$5,000."

Such sums were about to become chicken-feed for the INA. As a result of the defection of Lt Gen Hussein Kamel, King Hussein of Jordan turned against his old friend in Baghdad. He made contact with the Iraqi opposition. The CIA persuaded the King to allow the INA to set up a well-funded headquarters in Amman. They bought a radio station for \$3m from Croatia, which they named al-Mustaqbal, or "the Future". In January 1996, President Clinton agreed to pay \$6m towards the INA's operations in Amman, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states paid a similar sum.

It all ended in disaster six months later. Dr Alawi talked happily in Amman about his plans for a coup. But, as so often in the past, Saddam struck first. There was a wave of arrests in Iraq as he purged the army. As many as 80 officers, alleged to be working with the INA, were executed or died under torture. On 31 August 1996, the Iraqi leader sent his tanks into Kurdistan to wrap up the CIA operation.

This was one of the great disasters in the 50-year history of the agency. So far it has attracted little attention in the US, and the full extent of the débâcle has not emerged.

The CIA is also protected by the demon reputation of its adversary. To many Americans, an attempt to overthrow Saddam, even if a humiliating flop, seems worthwhile. Some 300 Iraqis may have been killed because of the CIA's failed operation, but the dead do not vote, and most died obscurely in underground torture chambers or before Iraqi firing squads.



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Election-day nerves dampen trading

Diane Coyle
Economics Editor

As the nation went to the polls there was fresh evidence of the strength of the economy yesterday. The news helped shares close at a record high, although trading was quiet and nervous thanks to caution about the outcome of the election.

The monthly survey of purchasing managers in the UK showed that fears of recovery being derailed by the strong pound are, so far, unfounded.

The index of activity picked up in April. Output and home orders increased sharply because of booming demand. Export orders continued to increase, although at a slower pace than the previous month. The FTSE 100 index ended

New figures push shares to record high but pound falls against mark

9 points higher at 4,445. A bout of election-day nerves hit currency traders, however.

The pound fell more than a pence to just over DM2.79 as the markets were swept by an after-lunch rumour of exit polling showing the Conservatives ahead in marginal constituencies.

The resulting bout of jitters was explained as fear of a hung parliament and all the resulting uncertainties. A drop in the dollar also helped push the pound lower. But one analyst said, definitely off the record: "We are all such Tories here that we just want to believe the Government can snatch victory from the jaws of defeat."

Another said: "People keep

saying the market has discounted a Labour government. But if the Tories are wiped out, there will be a knee-jerk reaction."

Most of the big securities houses in the City were open throughout the night to deal with business from overseas investors as the result of the general election unfolded. Deals transacted in the small hours will be disclosed this morning.

Yesterday's economic figures concentrated the minds of City economists on the possibility of a rise in interest rates shortly after the election. David Owen at Kleinwort Benson said: "In a perfect world we would have tax

increases to hold back consumer spending, but as it is, the markets are looking for an increase in interest rates."

The next meeting between the Governor of the Bank of England, Eddie George, and the incoming chancellor is scheduled for 7 May, but some analysts speculated it could be postponed after a Labour victory. But even if this did happen, and there was no indication that it would, the Bank of England's inflation report is due to be published on 13 May and is still expected to call for an increase in the cost of borrowing.

The purchasing managers survey showed that the pound's strength had not yet damaged

the recovery in industry, with weakness on the export front offsetting overheating in the home market.

Peter Thomson, director-general of the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply, said: "This appears to be an almost perfect scenario for the manufacturing economy." There was steady growth without inflationary pressure.

"The strong pound has stifled demand just enough to keep a lid on things," he said.

The index of activity in manufacturing increased slightly to 53.1 in April, with an increase in output and orders behind the improvement. The output index was almost unchanged at 56.2,

well above the "break-even" level of 50.

Growth in export orders slowed while growth in home orders more than compensated for it. The index for total orders was 55.3, close to its average for the past few months.

At the same time, the prices index was unchanged at 40.5, meaning that prices paid for materials have now been falling for 18 months. "There are no inflationary pressures or capacity constraints," Mr Thomson said.

Other recent indicators have shown that the economy outside manufacturing is expanding at a faster pace. In the first quarter of this year national in-

come, the widest available measure, grew by 1 per cent thanks mainly to booming service industries.

Yesterday Halifax reported

that house prices rose 0.3 per cent last month, almost the same as the increase reported by Nationwide Building Society earlier in the week. It reported a decline in the annual rate of house price inflation to 6.6 per cent from 7.2 per cent in March.

Halifax said London was seeing the sharpest price rises.

It described price increases

elsewhere as "moderate".

The split in the economy be-

tween industry vulnerable to a downturn in exports due to the

strong pound and a booming

consumer and service sector has divided. City experts Simon Brisco at Nikko Europe argued that an increase in base rates would hurt industry, and said the next chancellor should leave them unchanged.

"Labour has a marvellous opportunity. They have a following wind here in the City," he said. Jonathan Leynes at HSBC Markets said the economy needed a post-election rate rise like a hole in the head.

But David Bloom at James Capel said yesterday's survey showed that sterling was not about to drag the economy into recession.

"Doing nothing would be terrible. In the real world, they can't raise taxes for political reasons so they must at least put up interest rates," he said.

Killik joins queue to distance itself from Regan bid

Tom Stevenson
and Nigel Cope

Killik & Co, the stockbroker, yesterday became the latest company to distance itself from Andrew Regan, Lanica Trust and Galileo, the vehicle set up to launch his failed £1.2bn bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

In a statement, the firm said it condemned "the use of dishonest tactics" and sincerely regretted its name had been associated "with any improper behaviour". It had severed all links with Mr Regan.

The attempt by Killik to distance itself from Mr Regan, following the collapse of his bid attempt and the launch of a Serious Fraud Office inquiry into dealings between the CWS and one of his former stock market vehicles, follows similar moves this week by Schroders, Hambras and Travers Smith Braithwaite, the solicitors. HSBC James Capel also said it had resigned this week as stockbroker to Lanica Trust.

The moves coincide with the launch of an Exchange inquiry into possible insider dealing in the shares of Lanica Trust, which soared from 88p last October to a peak of £20.50 in January before they were finally suspended at £19.50 in March.

The inquiry will focus on the extent to which investors were aware of Mr Regan's planned bid for the CWS at the time they bought into the company.

It is understood that when Galileo was set up with a share capital of £9.6m, more than

three times the net asset value of its 90 per cent-owned parent Lanica, investors were invited to subscribe for shares without knowing for what they were putting up seed capital.

Admitting that it had bought shares on behalf of 200 investors in early December 1996 at around 200p a share, Killik said that at the time of the purchase nobody within the firm was aware that Lanica was planning a bid for the CWS.

"The purchases made by the partners and staff fully complied with the SFA's conduct of business rules," the statement said.

According to Killik, a further £2m was invested in Galileo, including £122,398 from partners and staff of the firm, although at the time of the investment no attempt was made to discover for what purpose Galileo had been set up. It was only weeks later, in January 1997, that Killik asked and was told that Galileo had been set up for the purpose of bidding for the CWS.

Killik concluded its statement by saying that "no one within the firm has seen any CWS confidential documents, nor were they aware that such documents were in circulation until this issue became public".

Killik said it had been strongly influenced in its decision to recommend investment in Lanica Trust and Galileo by the pedigree of Lanica's advisers and other backers. This sort of "blind" investment, hacking an entrepreneur who had made money for investors in the past, as Mr Regan had, was not unusual, a spokesman said.

Separately, the Co-operative Wholesale Society announced that it had promoted Alan Prescott to the position of deputy chief executive. Mr Prescott played a key role in seeing off Mr Regan's £1.2bn bid.

Graham Melmoth, chief executive of the CWS, said: "I want to pay special tribute to Alan Prescott for his work in recent weeks in leading the management team and advisers which so emphatically defeated the attempted bid by Galileo."

His promotion came as details emerged of the Co-op movement's proposals for new legislation that would protect its traditions and stimulate its growth. The legislation has been proposed by the UK Co-operative Council and is supported by the Co-op's political wing.

The Co-operatives Act would propose the appointment of a co-operatives commissioner who would advise the government on co-op matters. The Act would make it easier for co-ops to raise capital and to use financial instruments available to quoted companies.

Other proposals include a clarification of the share ownership rules, which would state that co-op shares are always worth £1 and do not offer the prospect of capital growth.

It would be an attempt not just to protect the movement from predators but to encourage new co-ops to be formed, and to update the 1965 Industrial and Provident Societies Act which was based on 19th Century legislation.

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Commercial flair: Bill Cockburn, chief executive of WH Smith, described Beverley Hodson (above) as having the right qualities and energy "to drive our sales growth". Photograph: Philip Meech

Intel's latest chip faces hot competition

Roger Trapp

A significant battle is set to break out in the computer industry next week when Intel, the world's largest chip-maker, launches its latest product.

The much-anticipated Pentium II processor, which comes out on Tuesday, enables information to be dealt with much faster than its predecessors. However, the rival manufacturer AMD has already shipped its K6 product, which is thought to be comparable with the Pentium II, on to the market and other products are expected shortly.

Richard Baker, UK marketing manager with AMD, said the company hoped that the encouraging reception given to its product so far would enable it

to strengthen its position in the market.

The arrival of this kind of competition is leading some industry observers to predict a challenge to Intel's hitherto dominant position, which currently amounts to about 80 per cent of the personal computer market. "For the first time, people have a choice," said one.

Others are not sure that Intel's position will be seriously threatened. Roy Howitt, sales and alliances manager with Business Systems Group, a systems integrator specialising in serving the City, said the various chip makers were always leapfrogging each other with faster products.

He pointed out that Intel's strength came from its close

relationships with Microsoft and other software producers. "It's not just speed, it's partnership. It's the close coupling of the processor with the operating system."

Moreover, Intel says that the Pentium II is the first business processor to apply the Multimedia Extension, or MMX, technology launched by the company earlier this year. So far, this has primarily been used to operate computer games because it offers much better graphics.

However, the increasing popularity of such features as video-conferencing on office computers has created a huge demand for the product, said a spokeswoman.

AMD, whose processor divi-

sion is based in Austin, Texas, recently announced that Digital would be incorporating its chips in its products, while it is understood that Hewlett-Packard is planning to fit both AMD and Intel processors to the equipment it offers.

Industry observers point out that others are continuing to stick with Intel, indicating that the California-based company is still felt to have the edge in a fiercely competitive industry.

A sign of the significance of the latest development is the fact that Intel - which, according to the latest Fortune 500 rankings, saw revenues rise more than 28 per cent last year to \$20.8bn (£12.8bn) - is sending senior executives to the London launch.

Computer manufacturers such as Hewlett-Packard and Gateway will be demonstrating products fitted with the chip, while BA will be revealing how the new processor has helped it create a three-dimensional computer model of Heathrow Airport's Terminal 5.

Intel anticipates that computers fitted with the new chip will sell for less than £2,000. However, regardless of whether AMD gains the bigger share it is seeking, there will be a boost for consumers who - unlike the corporates - are prepared to settle for second best.

As always happens when a new product of this sort is launched, the immediately preceding technology becomes cheaper.

Ireland lifts base rates to defend shaky punt

Alan Murdoch
Dublin

or short-term facility to 6.75 per cent with effect from this morning.

The move was expected after the bank on Wednesday stopped buying punts to shore up the currency's value.

The punt has been targeted by speculators in recent weeks because Ireland is among Europe's strongest economic performers in qualifying for the start of the European single currency in 1999.

Ireland's "Celtic Tiger" revival has seen the currency strengthen in recent years. But many dealers believe the punt will join the single currency at a lower value against continental currencies than its recent ERM level.

Buoyed by a bullish medium-term economic forecast this week by Ireland's Economic and Social Research Institute, Ruairí Quinn, Finance Minister, emphasised that the country was no longer tied to sterling.

The institute's forecast, the most hopeful in decades, concluded that if current policies and voluntary pay restraint continue, Ireland should maintain GNP growth of 5.5 per cent until 2000, slowing to 5 per cent between 2000 and 2005. This will see Ireland pass the UK standard of living before 2005.

Shell cautious on oil prices after flat Q1

The Anglo-Dutch oil giant Royal Dutch Shell yesterday painted a cautious picture on oil prices and refining margins as it reported a flat set of first-quarter profit figures, writes Michael Harrison.

Current cost net income for the period was £1.54bn against £1.53bn last year while net income showed a 19 per cent drop from £1.7bn in the first quarter of 1996 to £1.4bn.

The shares fell 8p to 107.2p. Shell warned that the steady fall in oil prices since the start of the year was set to continue, exacerbated by an excess of production over demand. "Crude

prices may show further weakness. Refining margins are also expected to remain under pressure," the company said.

The group also pointed to the strength of sterling, which had the effect of masking an underlying 7 per cent increase in earnings in dollar terms. The average oil price in the first quarter was \$21.2 a barrel, \$2.60 a barrel higher than a year ago.

Shell's exploration and production earnings for the quarter were the second highest on record at £996m.

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STOCK MARKETS					
FTSE 100			Dow Jones	Nikkei	
4445.00	+8.00	+0.2	4445.00	4056.60	3,641
4502.10	+3.40	+0.1	4729.40	4469.40	3,577
2172.50	+3.80	+0.2	2194.30	2017.90	3,582
2295.34	+0.0	+0.0	2374.20	2178.29	3,005
2128.89	+0.0	+0.0	2163.94	1989.78	3,588
6960.83	-46.16	-0.7	7085.16	5032.94	1,821
19276.33	+124.21	+0.6	19448.00	17303.85	0.861
13020.78	+117.48	+0.9	13888.34	12055.17	3,331
closed	-	-	3460.59	2648.77	1,591
Source: FT Information					

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COMMENT

Their very size makes it easier for them to take big commercial risks. If the project goes wrong, investors will certainly suffer, but provided the company is efficiently run, it can be absorbed'

Don't expect the oil giants to opt for demerger

Is there any purpose to, or justification for, integrated oil companies - the industry giants that combine exploration and production with petrol retailing and refining - or would consumers and shareholders alike be better served by splitting them into their constituent parts? There is nothing particularly novel about this suggestion which, a bit like a passing comet, tends to turn up unannounced from time to time before disappearing again into the cosmos. Right now it is once more in full view, thanks largely to Pierre Jungels, the new chief executive of Enterprise Oil. Enterprise is a pure E&P company, so it shouldn't come as a surprise that Mr Jungels believes the integrated structure has had its day, that they are going to be outperformed by more focused pure retailing, refining and E&P companies.

Mr Jungels believes not only that there is no particular purpose to the integrated structure, but that it can be positively harmful to the businesses that make it up. Just ask Shell, which at its annual general meeting on 14 May faces a special resolution calling on the board to clean up its act on human rights and the environment. Single issue campaigning of this sort, whether justified or not, easily spills over from the business it is aimed at - in this case Shell's E&P activities in Nigeria - into the company's consumer-facing interests elsewhere. Before Nigeria there was the Brent Spar fiasco, prompting a consumer boycott of Shell's petrol retailing business in Germany.

Likewise, BP has had to work hard at preventing politically inspired complaints about

its E&P activities in Columbia spilling over into its retail businesses in the more developed world. In other words, what a company has to do to get the stuff out of the ground may be unacceptable to those who happily buy it.

Even the term "integrated oil company" has become a bit of a misnomer, for these companies have not been "integrated" in the accepted sense of the word for many years now. The petrol being sold by Shell or BP is as likely to be derived from Esso or Mobil as their own oil fields, and it might as easily have been refined by someone else again. Each business operates within its own market place, largely regardless of the company's other interests up or downstream of it. The senior executive who has to deal with the problems of his retail company is highly likely to find it a distraction from the possibly more important challenges facing his E&P or refining interests.

Moreover, the traditional defence of the integrated structure - that the up- and downstream interests are largely counter-cyclical - was rather exploded during the last recession when all three activities, production, refining and retailing, got clobbered at the same time. The low oil price failed to drive up consumer demand, as it had tended to in previous cycles.

Most of the majors have made progress in differentiating the cost structures of their various businesses in an appropriate manner, but the problem is still there. The highly paid E&P executive drags up the pay structure throughout the organisation, even in unskilled areas

of the company where the market dictates poorer rates of remuneration. Even the cost of capital is often no better for a major than a smaller, more focused E&P company, since investors are prepared to pay a premium for the pure exploration play.

So much for the downside. There is, however, one very significant advantage the big boys have. Their very size makes it much easier for them to take big commercial risks. If the project goes wrong, investors will certainly suffer, but provided the company is efficiently run and managed, it can be absorbed. The smaller player, with the risk of wipe-out to consider, is much more constrained and his opportunity is correspondingly limited. This is the case in most businesses but it is particularly pronounced in oil and gas. So although logic must be on Mr Jungels' side, we are unlikely to see BP and Shell hurling down the demerger route, much as few-hungry investment bankers would like them to.

An unknown quantity at WH Smith

At first glance a refugee from the troubled Sears shoe retailing empire does not look like the most obvious candidate to revitalise the almost equally troubled retail arm of WH Smith. That, however, is the task Beverley Hodson has been chosen to perform.

She may have a great future ahead of her. She may be just the breath of fresh air

needed at WH Smith, an institution that still conjures up images of crusty paternalism and male-domination. Looked at one way, anything she has got to be an improvement on Project Euclid, the ridiculous wheeze the last but one management dreamt up to restore the brand's fortunes.

But for now she is largely an unknown quantity and certainly not the big hit the City had been expecting Bill Cockburn to bring in to head up the group's biggest and most important division. Until yesterday Ms Hodson was managing director of Sears' Dolcis and Cable & Co shoe chains, a post she had held for less than a year. That may not have been long enough to be tainted with the failure of the Liam Strong years. But it does suggest that Ms Hodson's credentials are

June, it would pay dividends to check out what the chairman said about her predecessor, Peter Bamford, before he was unceremoniously dumped last month. It might sound familiar.

Ignorance was bliss at Killik

The investment proposition outlined by Killik & Co yesterday as it joined the stampede to distance itself from Andrew Regan and his ill-fated bid to storm the Co-op would not have been out of place in the heady days of the South Sea Bubble.

Way back in the joint stock company's infancy, it was standard practice to ask investors to put up cash for as yet unplaned enterprises. Killik showed yesterday that little has changed at the more, shall we say, adventurous end of the investment spectrum. By the firm's own admission, Killik stumped up £2m, including more than £120,000 of personal account money from its partners and staff, to back Galileo, happily unaware that it was to be the takeover vehicle for one of the most audacious bid attempts in recent times.

It saw no reason to ask anything so mundane as just what Galileo was for.

Mr Regan must be touched by the faith so many "blind" investors placed in his entrepreneurial skills. Whether the Stock Exchange agrees that ignorance was bliss is another thing.

ING Barings acts to retain stake in Dillon Read

David Usborne
New York

In a bid to retain a valuable window on to Wall Street, ING Barings is scrambling to hold on to a 25 per cent stake that it holds in the investment bank Dillon Read and, if possible, to purchase the other 75 per cent.

ING's foothold in Dillon Read, which has performed strongly recently as a mergers and acquisition boutique, dates back to ING's rescue of Barings two years ago. Barings Holding Company, as it was before its collapse, had bought 40 per cent of Dillon Read in 1991.

A struggle is now raging between ING and Dillon Read over the 25 per cent still in ING's hands. Dillon Read has the option to re-acquire that stake by the end of June and until recently appeared set on doing so. Dillon Read's executives hold the other 75 per cent.

ING confirmed from its Amsterdam headquarters yesterday that it would prefer not to lose its interest and proceed instead to buying all of the bank. "If the conditions are right for both par-

ties, it would be nice to have it all," said a company spokesman. He indicated that talks were under way and should be completed within the next fortnight, with the issue of price the biggest sticking point. Unconfirmed reports have suggested that to buy the balance of the privately held bank's stock, ING would have to find between \$425m and \$450m (£262m-£277m).

That Dillon Read would be an attractive catch for ING is evident. Like other merger and acquisition specialists on Wall Street, the bank has benefited handsomely from the recent rash of corporate combinations. After being briefly hauled in March, optimism that the mergers surge will continue has returned with the new upwards momentum of the New York stock markets.

There is still little evidence of enthusiasm on the part of Dillon Read for a full ING takeover. Rather, indications in New York point to some friction in the negotiations. "As you know, Dillon Read has been in discussion with

ING regarding the exercise of Dillon Read's option to acquire the 25 per cent that ING holds," Peter Rosenthal, a spokesman for the bank said yesterday. "In the course of those discussions, Dillon Read has been receiving constant proposals from ING to which ING appeals directly to Dillon Read not to exercise its option".

Only in February, the bank's management circulated a memo to staff indicating its intention to buy back the 25 per cent held by ING and to break links with the Dutch group.

Among recent high-profile mergers in which Dillon Read acted as principal advisers was the \$3bn stock-swap deal last December between the Long Island Lighting Company of New York and another company, the Brooklyn Union Gas Company.

Dillon Read's success has reflected well on ING Barings' corporate finance operation in London. ING Barings also has a securities business in New York, employing 1,200 and specialising in global high-yield businesses, emerging markets and banking.

IN BRIEF

US data paints 'picture of strength'

The National Association of Purchasing Management in the US said its lead index last month fell from 55 to 54.2. The number was above forecasts of 53.6, but economists said the prices index, which fell to 49.6 from 50.9 in March, should push US credit markets in a buoyant mood before today's all-important April jobs data. Economists said the NAPM and prices data painted a picture of continued US economic strength devoid of any concrete evidence of inflation. "It's kind of a microcosm of all the other data we got on the economy, strong real economic activity but still great price performance," said John Williams, chief economist at Bankers Trust.

Fisher Price toy factory to close

A toy factory is to close with the loss of 250 jobs, the victim of a decision by the US owner to cut one-tenth of its global workforce of 26,000. The closure of the Fisher Price and Spears Games plant at Peterlee, County Durham, would result in production being switched to Italy where toy output was more in line with modern youngsters' demands and more cost-competitive, said a spokesman for the parent company, Mattel. The Peterlee factory specialised in making bigger toys which were considered less fashionable with children. A Mattel spokesman said: "The way the market is going, retailers are looking for smaller, more compact toys, such as electronic games, which is the sort of operation Mattel has in Italy."

Nomura can beat scandal, says president

Junichi Ujije, new president of Nomura Securities, claimed the scandal-tainted brokerage would be able to catch up with its foreign rivals in one to two years and might even overtake them in some fields. In a speech to employees, he said he would change Nomura into a company which always obeyed the law and acted with confidence and pride: "We need to do it now. This is our last chance. I will change Nomura with courage and conviction." Mr Ujije took control of Nomura following a sweeping management shake-up, after prosecutors and Japan's securities watchdog launched an investigation of the brokerage for suspected illegal deals linked to corporate racketeers.

Currency movements hold back T&N

T&N warned that it expected its rate of progress in the current year to be held back by currency movements. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, told the annual meeting: "The year has started on an encouraging note with our operating performance edging ahead of last year and margins on an improving trend. Nevertheless, the rate of progress in the current year is still likely to be constrained by currency movements and the high level of restructuring charges flowing from essential cost reduction and efficiency programmes."

Birmingham Midshires locks in investors

Birmingham Midshires Building Society will automatically close all new accounts opened from 1 May once any money is withdrawn. The move to lock in all new investors was taken to discourage speculators hoping to cash in if the society decides to convert to being a bank or is taken over. The minimum to open a membership account is £1,000 but more than 3,000 of the 100,000 new accounts this year have quickly been reduced to £100, the minimum for retaining membership.

Barr to auction coach division

Tom Stevenson
Financial Editor

Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust said yesterday it was inviting offers for its coach holidays division, opening the door for the business's management to table a rival bid to a controversial offer from Leisureplus, owner of rival Shearings holiday group. Hamby, the merchant bank, is conducting an auction for the division among interested parties, of whom there are thought to be at least 10.

The proposed sale of the coach operation, which would leave Barr as a pure motor dealer, has caused bitter acrimony in the company's northern heartland, where the Wallace Arnold name is seen as being as Yorkshire as its pod.

Angry employees have taken out full-page advertisements in local papers opposing the disposal and picketed board meetings in a campaign as bruising for the company as a bitter boardroom row two years ago between rival factions of the ruling Barr family.

At the heart of the row is the belief that if Shearings, a former division of Rank, acquires the operation, up to 1,000 jobs could be at risk. The mood of the workforce is markedly different from the atmosphere late last year when it looked likely that Barr would be buying Shearings from Rank and the jobs at risk were those of the Lancashire company.

Richard Bell, a company spokesman, refused to comment yesterday on the value of the coach business but analysis believed it could be worth around £35m.

Investment column, page 26



Lady Grantchester: Appointed to the board in 1977

Moores matriarch quits Littlewoods board

Nigel Cope
City Correspondent

The most senior member of the Moores family, which controls the Littlewoods retail and football pools empire, has resigned as a director, leaving just one family member on the board.

Lady Grantchester, the 72-year-old daughter of the company's founder, Sir John Moores, is to retire as a non-executive. The matriarch of the Moores clan, Lady Grantchester was a key figure in the family's decision to reject a £1bn takeover offer by former chief executive Barry Dale in late 1995.

A strong-willed woman, with a distinctive Margaret Thatcher hairstyle, she has long been the

family figurehead and has served on the Littlewoods board for 20 years. Her departure leaves James Suensoo-Taylor as the only member of the Moores family on the board. He is one of Lady Grantchester's sons and acts as a non-executive director with special responsibility for linking between the board and the family shareholders.

Commenting on her decision she said: "Although I have decided to retire from the board of the Littlewoods Organisation, I will obviously retain a strong interest in the company as a shareholder and be available for consultation."

Betty Grantchester was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College and her father was reportedly delighted when she married Kenneth Suensoo-Taylor, the second Baron Suensoo-Taylor.

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A company spokeswoman said Lady Grantchester had been pleased with the progress of Littlewoods under chief executive James Ross. He has this week agreed to acquire the Freemans mail order business from Sears for £367.5m. The company is also seeking buyers for its high street stores.

New Savings Rates from the Bristol & West.

Reflecting changes only to the accounts shown below.

EFFECTIVE 2ND MAY 1997 (unless otherwise stated).

+ Effective 12th May 1997.

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS RATE OF INTEREST PA* (VARIABLE)	NET PA**	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS RATE OF INTEREST PA* (VARIABLE)	NET PA**
INSTANT ACCESS DEPOSIT	£100,000+	3.12%	2.52%	PREMIER PLUS MONTHLY INCOME ISSUE 1	£100,000+	4.04%	3.87%
	£200,000+	3.12%	2.52%		£20,000+	4.65%	3.78%
	£300,000+	3.09%	2.50%		£25,000+	4.31%	3.49%
	£100,000+	2.65%	2.12%		£10,000+	3.98%	3.18%
	£5,000+	2.25%	1.80%		£5,000+	3.35%	2.68%
	£2,000+	2.05%	1.64%		£2,000+	2.96%	2.37%
	£1,000+	1.90%	1.52%		£500+	2.76%	2.21%
	£500+	1.80%	1.44%				
	£1+	0.20%	0.16%				
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	Interest paid annually.			BONUS TESSA	£3000+	4.75%	
	£100,000+	4.95%	3.96%		£500+	3.25%	
	£50,000+	4.75%	3.80%		£1+	0.70%	
	£30,000+	4.67%	3.52%				
	£20,000+	4.09%	3.04%				
	£15,000+	3.90%	3.04%				
	£5,000+	3.40%	2.72%				
	£2,500+	3.00%	2.40%				
	£500+	2.80%	2.24%				
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	Interest paid monthly.			TESSA PLUS	£3000+	5.90%	
	£100,000+	4.84%	3.87%		£500+	4.40%	
	£50,000+	4.65%	3.72%		£1+	1.20%	
	£30,000+	4.31%	3.45%				

business

Shell high-octane rating overdone

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Judged against Royal Dutch Shell's exceptional performance in the first quarter of 1996, its results for the first three months of this year were respectable enough. Current cost net income came in flat at £1.5bn – hang in the middle of analysts' forecasts. What spooked the market, however, was Shell's downbeat assessment of prospects for the rest of the year.

Bearish commentators have been warning for some time that we should expect a substantial weakening in crude prices and Shell has said nothing to contradict that impression. Prices have been falling steadily since the start of the year, registering an average of \$21.60 for the quarter.

The picture is one of continuing decline in prices and pressure on refining margins against a background of rising output in Opec and non-Opec areas. This is likely to result in production outstripping demand, leading to rising inventories.

Add in a strong pound, which held back current cost earnings in the first quarter by 7 per cent, and the outlook is not all that rosy for any of the big oil companies.

Higher exploration and production earnings helped offset increased corporate charges and a fall in earnings from refining and marketing operations in the first quarter.

Shell also managed a modest improvement in chemicals in the first three months but this was only achieved through on-going cost reductions whereas margins weakened. The improvement may stretch into the second quarter but thereafter much depends on Shell's ability to recover the increase in cracker prices by raising the price of derivative products.

With oil and gas production likely to keep growing at around 7 per cent a year, Shell has the scope to complement this strong upstream growth with rationalisation benefits elsewhere, notably chemicals.

However, falling crude prices this year could hold back dollar income. Taken together with the strength of sterling and guilder weakness this could translate into a decline in earnings for the year in domestic currency terms.

Shell's growth prospects are no more than average for the sector – reflected in the decline in first-quarter capital expenditure and exploration costs.

Meanwhile Shell's return on capital employed, at 11.8 per cent for the year to the end of March, continues to lag behind its peers.

Taken as a whole, Shell remains on a high-octane rating. The boost to the share price that came with the news earlier this year of a stock split and capitalisation issue has merely left it even more vulnerable to a retarding. Shell is overvalued relative to BP by as much

as 25 per cent, making BP a better bet given its growth prospects and higher returns on capital.

Assuming Shell group profits of £5.1bn this year rising to £5.6bn in 1998, the shares down 9p at 1.081p, are on a forward multiple of 19 times falling to 17.7. High enough.

Barr's cash pile could reach £35m

Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust's decision to placate its workforce by inviting offers for its coach holidays division rather than simply selling it to rival Shearings really makes little difference as far as the remaining operations are concerned. Whether the business is sold to Shearings, its management or a third party, the company becomes a pure motor distributor with a cash pile of maybe £35m to hand back to shareholders or invest in the rump car activities.

Whether Barr is right to dispose of the coach activities, and so give up a useful counter-balance to its cyclical car sales operations, is a moot point. The company argues that it is misunderstood by its supporters point further north to its high margins, good management team and tight geographical concentration which allows it to dominate the markets where it is strong such as Ford.

Their attention will now turn to how Barr's motor trading operations will fare in a fast-changing and consolidating business.

Arguably the current trend towards

big multiple-franchise dealerships acts in favour of the larger players such as Pendragon and Reg Vardy at the expense of smaller operators such as Barr. But there is a plausible counter-argument that the large manufacturers are unwilling to hand over too much power to dealers with clout, leaving a useful niche for regional players.

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Their attention will now turn to how

business

Pirc's attack on Shell is raising hackles in the City. Terry Macalister reports

Boardroom policeman treads on toes

For a change, it won't be just directors who find themselves pitched against Pirc, the self-proclaimed policeman of corporate governance, at Shell's annual general meeting on 14 May. The Association of British Insurers and its members have decided to come out in support of Royal Dutch/Shell in its fight against shareholders protesting about the company's human rights record and environmental practices.

Pirc has backed a special resolution calling on the board to clean up their act. But after listening to the arguments, the ABI has decided to give public backing to the board. Many in the boardroom and in the City will be privately hoping that the ABI's stance marks a turning of the tide against politically correct shareholder activism.

"Some of what Pirc does is perfectly reasonable," said one pension fund manager. "But here they are turning from corporate governance to environmental issues and we can't go along with that."

Undaunted, Pension Investment Research Consultants (Pirc), is planning to step up its activities in a move which will create a ripple of concern in boardrooms around the country. At present it restricts itself to the country's top 350 companies but Alan MacDougall, founder and joint managing director, says he wants eventually to cover the entire stock market for its list of 53 clients.

The organisation, which has widened its attacks from executive pay to take on Shell's human rights record in Nigeria, has grown enormously since it was established by Mr MacDougall and Anne Simpson just over 10 years ago. From a desk and a telephone in Brixton, it has become a private business with offices on the fringes of the City, a staff of 12, and a turnover close to £1m.

It is accused by critics of being an unrepresentative and secretive body, but Mr MacDougall insists Pirc is

completely above board and transparent. He points out that it always sends details of its reports to affected companies so that they check their accuracy and comment on them ahead of publication.

"We are not a shadowy or secretive organisation. We have 40 pension funds and eight fund managers as clients, many from the private sector," he said.

But Pirc's sometime abrasive tactics coupled with Mr MacDougall's background with the National Union of Mineworkers and Hackney Council, fuel fears in some quarters that Pirc is politically motivated.

"Rubbish," said Mr MacDougall, pointing out that all his working life has been spent in pension or investment fund management. Ms Simpson's past as an Oxfam worker also puts her out of the frame as a political activist, except among the more paranoid boardrooms.

Although Pirc's profile has been raised by punch-ups with Shell over Nigeria, its staple diet is still pushing companies to abide by the Cadbury and Greenbury corporate governance codes.

It offers individual reports on all 350 FTSE companies, providing clients with details on all forthcoming



Good cause: Anne Simpson, a Pirc founder, once worked for Oxfam

with a Greenpeace-like flair for public relations. It has nothing in its locker to match Greenpeace's direct action, but critical shareholder questioning at annual meetings often start at Pirc's door. Its penchant for

shareholder documentation to provide active shareholders with verbal ammunition.

Pirc and its high-profile tactics can raise strong emotions from those with whom it has tangled, but few executives are willing to talk publicly. "You will not get us to comment about them on the record because Pirc has teeth. There might be no Brent Spar with Pirc, but it is certainly a war of attrition," says one of Britain's largest corporations.

Private views on Pirc are mixed. Some regard it as politically motivated and a self-serving irritant, while others believe it genuinely plays a vital role on corporate governance. The Institute of Directors, not usually coy about commenting on difficult issues, would only say: "Pirc is not really influential like Hermes or one of those funds," while the Confederation of British Industry said flatly: "It fulfils a role."

attacking high-profile corporations make it a useful story source for newspapers. And it has good in-house media advice available from its non-executive chairman, John Plender, who is a leader writer on the Financial Times.

The group, which mainly represents local authority and trade union pension funds, does not attend company agms itself. But it travails through

You will not get us to comment about them on the record – Pirc has teeth

ing agm resolutions analysed with reference to best business practice.

Regular updates on corporate governance are provided through a research service and a monthly briefing bulletin, Pirc Intelligence. In this field, it is competing against research material put out by organisations such as the National Association of Pension Funds in the UK.

Its research has been coupled

with a Greenpeace-like flair for public relations. It has nothing in its locker to match Greenpeace's direct action, but critical shareholder questioning at annual meetings often start at Pirc's door. Its penchant for

The kipper-tie maker who triumphed over Maxwell

PEOPLE & BUSINESS



City deal maker: John Talbot is a perfect emblem of the Tory era

John Talbot's career mirrors the triumphs and tragedies of the British economy under the past 18 years of Tory rule. In the early 1980s Mr Talbot worked as a financial director in a Midlands factory which made kipper ties. Fashions changed and his company went into receivership.

The receivers were so impressed by his grasp of finances, however, that they offered him a job. He accepted, and after a few career moves he popped up at Arthur Andersen, heading its insolvency department just in time for the recession.

In 1991 our man, a profoundly reticent professional, found himself splashed all over the front pages as the chief wunder-upper of Robert Maxwell's global business empire. He was responsible for co-ordinating a large team which had to disentangle more than 200 companies worldwide and find out where the pension money ended up.

With that and similar tasks

completed, our hero now leads a corporate finance department for Arthur Andersen. So successful

has he been that a recent mergers and acquisitions league table put AA 14th in the UK, ahead of other corporate finance houses such as JP Morgan. All that and he's a demon at snooker as well.

From kipper-tie maker to corporate undertaker to City deal maker in 18 years, Mr Talbot is a perfect emblem of the Tory era. Perhaps there's a film in it?

Germany's biggest management consultancy has poached the UK managing director of rivals Arthur D Little to head up a big expansion drive in Britain.

Roland Berger & Partner has

appointed Tim Simpson, a youth-

looking 50-year-old, to lead the charge. He will join UK chair-

man Ian Hay Davison, a former

boss of Lloyd's of London.

While Berger has been growing like mad in Germany recently it has only begun to operate seri-

ously in the UK in the past

couple of years.

Mr Simpson is described to me

by someone who's met him as

"quite nice really – not like a

management consultant at all. He

doesn't draw you lots of diagrams or things like that."

Messrs Simpson and Hay Davison should have no trouble bonding: Mr Simpson is an organist, while there's nothing Mr Hay Davison prefers more than a spot of church bell ringing. They should make a lively, if noisy, team.

Sam Simons, contracts manager at Taylor Woodrow, has been a busy bee. Tay Woodrow has just landed a £22m contract to supply all the concrete paneling for 14.5m of tunnels in the new Copenhagen underground system.

Mr Simons is proud of his concrete, which has been used in the Heathrow Express Rail Link, Thames Water sewer refurbishments and London Electricity cable tunnels. The secret, Mr

Simons tells me, is the granite aggregate used in the concrete. It comes from Glen Sanda on the coast of west Scotland. So what ever Labour does about European integration, there will be a large chunk of Scotland nestling forever in the bosom of Copenhagen.

Allied Domex, the Beefeater to Teacher's group, has brought in Rupert Barclay from LEK Partnership to be its new strategy guru. Mr Barclay, 40, did an MA in Classics at St John's College, Cambridge, and has an MBA too. Mr Barclay and Tony Hales, group chief executive, will work out how to put extra fizz into the booze and pubs business.

recapitulation aims to balance four human aspects – emotional, physical, mental and spiritual – to enhance relationships, solve problems and integrate people and activities.

Heather Campbell and David Firth, specialists in human behaviour, will present a paper on business recapitulation at a Working Potential conference at Regent's College, London, on 15 May.

Ms Campbell says: "My work combines psychology, ancient wisdom, ritual, the creative arts and humour. Balancing all four human aspects will help us with the multiplicity of problems we face in today's business environment."

Blimey. At this rate Sting will be running GEC.

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John Willcock

Foreign Exchange Rates

Sterling

Country Spot 1 month 3 months

Dollar Spot 1 month 3 months

D-Mark Spot

UK 16240 9.8 29.26

Canada 22672 61.95 157.00

Germany 27203 70.63 197.96

France 64213 232.21 675.64

Italy 27643 29.42 71.94

Ireland 22903 25.00 72.50

ECU 14316 24.20 42.56

Belgium 57601 5.10 12.10

Netherlands 31421 55.77 149.00

Portugal 10892 1.90 4.00

Norway 15003 280.20 790.67

Spain 23283 128.13 339.00

Sweden 22308 332.00 845.00

Australia* 20692 2.4 14.44

Hong Kong 12581 67.26 184.28

Malaysia 10709 0.30 0.70

New Zealand 11000 0.30 0.70

Saudi Arabia 23472 0.0 0.0

Singapore 23472 0.0 0.0

Interest Rates

UK 6.00%

France 3.15%

Germany 2.50%

Canada 4.50%

US Prime 5.00%

UK Fund 5.25%

Spain 2.50%

UK Discount 5.00%

Central 3.00%

UK Advances 2.70%

UK Lombard 4.25%

UK Discount 3.25%

UK Repo 4.10%

UK Discount 4.00%

UK Discount

Yalaietanee switches to France

Racing

JOHN COBB

The racecourse commentator at Newmarket will sleep a little more easily tonight. Not only have two runners defected from one of the largest fields for the 2,000 Guineas for many years, but one of them, Yalaietanee, would have required verbal gymnastics of Olympic standard for the commentator to have mentioned him more than twice over the course of the Rowley Mile.

Yalaietanee, along with the Clive Brittan-trained Fantastic Fellow, now heads to France on Sunday week and the softer option – in every sense – of the Poule d'Essai des Poulains (French 2,000 Guineas). His absence leaves Michael Stoute, his trainer, with two runners with which to pursue a third success in the first colt's Classic tomorrow. It remains a formidable team with the big-race talking horse, Entrepreneur, lining up alongside his stablemate, the Craven Stakes winner Desert Story.

Stoute had consulted Yalaietanee's owner, Maktoum Al Maktoum, in whose colours Desert Story also runs, before deciding on which horses would attempt to supplement his 2,000 victories with Shaded (1985) and Doyoun (1988).

Yesterday, the Sheikh's racing manager, Joe Mercer, said: "Why jeopardise a horse like Yalaietanee on fast ground when he will be better with a bit more cut? The ground at Newmarket will be good, fast ground, but it will be fast ground."

"It has been a scorching day today and any watering they have done today will have been absorbed, so Yalaietanee will go to France. Ray Cochrane will ride Desert Story on Saturday and we would like to get Frankie Dettori for Yalaietanee if he is available."

Fantastic Fellow, winner of

NEWMARKET

2,05 Triple Hay's three runs last season indicate he will be difficult to beat if Richard Hannon has him fit enough first time up this campaign. Slight preference, however, is given to a rival near the bottom of the handicap, BARITONE seems certain to appreciate this shorter distance after fading in the closing stages when runner-up in a mile event at Ripon a fortnight ago.

2,35 MUSICAL DANCER has the best form credentials here. Ed Dunlop's colt finished well when second to the useful Grapeshot on this track in October. The dilemma for punters is that form books have often proved outdated where Godolphin runners are concerned and Haltiara could well be superior following a winter in Dubai.

3,10 Busy Night, Times Allowed and Jupita certainly have the class to win

HYPERION'S

this but might be vulnerable to a challenge from a rival with a recent run. Both Sarahann and Sarahann can be relied upon to run well, particularly if their usual cutting two spots in a race are probably best over longer distances. This 12 furlongs, though, is probably KUTTA's best trip. His close third in the John Porter Stakes should have put him spot on this.

3,45 PURCHASING POWER hauls from a stable in fine form and this colt's come off a light weight is encouraged by talented apprentice Richard Muller taking off fifth.

FIRST SHOW

How they bet on today's televised racing

Newmarket - 3-45

Handy 52, H - 51, L - 74, C - 74

Purchased Power 51, H - 51, L - 74

Ashley Hill 53, H - 53, L - 74

Musical Dancer 54, H - 54, L - 74

Over To You 55, H - 55, L - 74

Blown 56, H - 56, L - 74

Frank's Debonair 57, H - 57, L - 74

Barry Of Ireland 58, H - 58, L - 74

Yalaietanee 59, H - 59, L - 74

Desert Story 60, H - 60, L - 74

Entrepreneur 61, H - 61, L - 74

Richard Muller 62, H - 62, L - 74

Baritone 63, H - 63, L - 74

Times Allowed 64, H - 64, L - 74

Jupita 65, H - 65, L - 74

Busy Night 66, H - 66, L - 74

Richard Muller 67, H - 67, L - 74

Richard Muller 68, H - 68, L - 74

Richard Muller 69, H - 69, L - 74

Richard Muller 70, H - 70, L - 74

Richard Muller 71, H - 71, L - 74

Richard Muller 72, H - 72, L - 74

Richard Muller 73, H - 73, L - 74

Richard Muller 74, H - 74, L - 74

Richard Muller 75, H - 75, L - 74

Richard Muller 76, H - 76, L - 74

Richard Muller 77, H - 77, L - 74

Richard Muller 78, H - 78, L - 74

Richard Muller 79, H - 79, L - 74

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Richard Muller 105, H - 105, L - 74

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Richard Muller 111, H - 111, L - 74

Richard Muller 112, H - 112, L - 74

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Richard Muller 138, H - 138, L - 74

Richard Muller 139, H - 139, L - 74

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Richard Muller 141, H - 141, L - 74

Richard Muller 142, H - 142, L - 74

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Richard Muller 144, H - 144, L - 74

Richard Muller 145, H - 145, L - 74

Richard Muller 146, H - 146, L - 74

Richard Muller 147, H - 147, L - 74

Richard Muller 148, H - 148, L - 74

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Richard Muller 160, H - 160, L - 74

Richard Muller 161, H - 161, L - 74

Richard Muller 162, H - 162, L - 74

Richard Muller 163, H - 163, L - 74

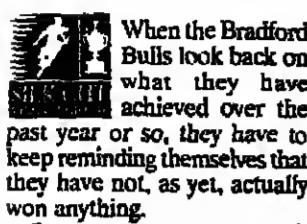
Richard Muller 164, H - 164, L - 74

Richard Muller 165, H - 165, L - 74

sport

McNamara adds substance to sales pitch

Tomorrow's Challenge Cup final provides the Bradford Bulls loose forward with a chance to fulfil high expectations, he tells Dave Hadfield



When the Bradford Bulls look back on what they have achieved over the past year or so, they have to keep reminding themselves that they have not, as yet, actually won anything.

Super League's acknowledged success story is still lacking its pay-off line and no one is more conscious of that fact than Steve McNamara, whose own year has been a mixture of excitement and frustration.

The former Hull loose-forward was signed too late to play in last season's Silk Cut Challenge Cup final and he then suffered the extra disappointment of being forced by injury to pull out of Great Britain's tour. Nobody feels more keenly the need to translate promise into fulfilment at Wembley tomorrow.

"We had a comparatively good season last time but we had the disappointment of not coming up with anything. If we don't win anything this time, there's a danger of us losing our momentum," he says. "The expectations of the crowd are so high. We have found out on occasions when we've won but not played particularly well this season that they expect so much from us every week."

That is the new challenge for the Bulls: to reality match their highly effective hype. As McNamara has found, the atmosphere that surrounds playing for Bradford is unique.

"I was lucky as a young supporter to be involved with Hull at a time when the atmosphere

generated was just phenomenal," he recalls. "To come to a place like Bradford, which wasn't noted for big crowds, and see the way it has taken off has been tremendous. You couldn't wish to be at a better place at the moment. I couldn't imagine playing anywhere else."

Apart from McNamara, Bradford have acquired Stuart Spruce, Danny Peacock, Glen Tomlinson, James Lowe and Tahi Reihana for this year's Cup final squad.

"There's no doubt that we're a stronger team," he says. "It was frustrating sitting out the final last year, but I knew from the time I signed that that was going to happen. It would have been worse to be injured or dropped."

"Obviously, it's nice for me to have the chance to go back and get my chance this time. The one doubt I had was whether the players who played there last year would have the same desire for this one. But if anything, they've got even more hunger for it than I have."

It is harsh, raucous, colourful and often pretty crass - and it works: Bradford more than doubled their average gate last season to displace Wigan as the game's best-supported club and all their home League matches so far this season have attracted wildly enthusiastic five-figure crowds.

They are clearly doing something right, but where McNamara parts company from the marketing guru is in his instinctive understanding that there must be a pay-off if the mood is to be sustained.

That is why the Bulls must win at Wembley: to add substance to the sales pitch. For-

tunately, there is plenty of substance there - not least in the players they have added to their side since they lost there to Saints 12 months ago.

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That is why the Bulls must win at Wembley: to add substance to the sales pitch. For-



Bulls in arms: Steve McNamara (left) and Bradford team-mate James Lowe celebrate another try on the road to Wembley. Photograph: Empics

Injured Scales will miss final

DAVE HADFIELD

Jon Scales, the Bradford Bulls' winger, is out of the side for the Silk Cut Challenge Cup final at Wembley tomorrow. Scales, the player who swung the semi-final last season with a hat-trick of tries and also scored in the final, has a thigh injury and cannot play in the repeat against St Helens.

"He strained a thigh against Halifax two weeks ago and is not

fit enough to play," said the Bulls' coach, Matthew Elliott, as the squad arrived at their southern headquarters.

Elliott is likely to play Danny Peacock and Paul Cook on the wings, although Abi Ekoku - the brother of Wimbledon footballer Efan - is also in the squad.

Bradford are likely to have Graeme Bradley and Paul Loughlin in the centres and Glen Tomlinson alongside Robbie Paul, their captain, at half-back.

"But I still have one or two things to consider," said Elliott, who has admitted to having sleepless nights wondering who to leave out.

Nathan Graham, who was vilified after the mistakes that arguably cost Bradford the Cup last year, is in the running for a place among the substitutes.

St Helens took a 19-man squad to their London base yesterday, including both Alan Hunte and Derek McVey, plus the New Zealander, Julian O'Neill; Chris Morley, Paul Anderson and Andy Haigh.

The Silk Cut Plate, the consolation prize competition which forms Wembley's curtain raiser for the first time tomorrow, has more sceptics than believers - but not in south Leeds or east Hull, writes Dave Hadfield.

In Hunslet's case, it also strikes a historical chord. It was 32 years ago that they were last at Wembley - for one of the great finals against Wigan - and their reappearance marks the rediscovery of their identity.

Now installed not far from Parkside, their traditional home, the Plate gives them the chance to remind the city they still exist.

"Apart from being great for players and supporters, it also provides revenue," he says.

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Hull KR's Wembley pedigree is more recent; indeed, one of their players, Des Harrison, played in the 1986 final, but can hardly little of it, thanks to an early blow on the head.

Their coach, Steve Crooks,

played for them there in 1981, and no one is more aware of how much times have changed for Rovers. Since their great days in the early to mid-80s,

staying alive has been more of a priority than going to Wembley and they are only playing now by permission of the administrators running the club.

Plante intends to do lead from the front. He only had a plaster cast removed from his ankle on Wednesday. For him, and the others involved, the match that kicks off at 12.15, when spectators are traditionally settling into over-priced London pubs, is far from a meaningless side-show.

Keane under World Cup cloud

Football

Roy Keane's anguish at missing a World Cup penalty could he double if Fifa, football's international governing body, take action over an alleged head-butting incident during Wednesday night's Group Eight qualifier in Romania.

Viorel Moldovan, one of five Romanians booked in their 1-0 victory, went down in the penalty area as it poleaxed as players jostled for position at an Irish free-kick.

The Dutch referee, Mario van der Ende, missed the second-half incident as he tried to usher the Romanian defenders back. Television evidence was unclear although it showed Keane making an intimidating gesture with his forehead towards Moldovan's face.

The Romanian played on after treatment but was later substituted. The referee took no action against Keane, whose 48th-minute penalty was saved.

It is another trauma in Keane's controversial career. He was sent off for attacking a Russian player in Mick McCarthy's first match as manager-

er last March. He was given a one-match suspension and then banned by McCarthy from Ireland's summer trip to America after failing to report for a friendly against Portugal in May last year. But he has played in all of Ireland's last five matches after making only sporadic appearances in the ill-fated Euro '96 qualifying campaign.

The incident with Moldovan in the Republic's unlucky defeat on Wednesday night was just one of a series of unsavoury events. The Crystal Palace midfielder Ray Houghton was felled by a coin thrown from the crowd and played on with an ugly gash in his head. And the substitute Tony Cascarino complained afterwards that one of the Romanians spat in his face. Houghton did not need stitches but said: "I felt very wobbly for a while but just wanted to get on and finish the game."

The coin was thrown despite a warning over the public address system earlier when another missile believed to be a plastic bottle, also landed on the pitch. Now Romania look certain to face severe punishment from Fifa.

At first glance, the mathematics of Group Four are also against the Scots. Their maximum points total is now 23, against Austria's 25 and Sweden's 24. However - and this is where they can see the light - their rivals have yet to meet in Vienna.

If Brown's wish for a draw were granted, and Scotland finished level on points with Austria, qualification would come down to goal difference. In the

Brown does sums

Phil Shaw says
Scotland must go
for broke if they are
to reach the finals

event of the two being equal, Scotland would have the advantage of having taken the balance of the points against Austria. Brown, meanwhile, serves that Sweden carry the greater threat.

For the trek to Belarussia on 8 June, the Scotland manager needs no calculators or rule books to realise that his team must go for broke. Despite the former Soviet republic's mediocre position, it was defeated in Minsk which ultimately forced the Netherlands into playing off for a place at Euro '96.

"Our job will be to win our last three matches," Brown said. "It's a lot harder to win five games in a row than three. Austria are in the best position, though I still think Sweden are the best side in the group."

Minst will be a fresh test of his resourcefulness, for the Scots will be without Colin Hendry and Colin Calderwood. Hendry's leonine mane and tigerish tackling have made him a symbol of Brown's

Scotland, although the manager distanced himself from the Blackburn player's injudicious assertion that the Italian referee favoured Sweden because Uefa's president, Lennart Johansson, is Swedish.

With both defenders booked in for overdue operations - Calderwood would have been disqualified anyway - Brown will turn to Rangers' Alan McLaren and the uncapped Christian Dailly of Derby. Wimbleton's Brian McAllister is also under consideration.

Whoever joins Tom Boyd in the back three, they will not go in "cold". To maintain a competitive edge in his squad against an arduous domestic season, Brown has arranged friendlies against Wales at Kilmarnock on 27 May and in Malta four days later.

In the meantime, remembering Harold Wilson's legendary claim that England won the World Cup under a Labour government, it would have been intriguing to observe whether success in Sweden would have produced a surge in support for the Scottish National Party in yesterday's poll. To Brown's chagrin, and doubtless that of Alex Salmond, it was not to be.

Second-placed Colombia suffered a shock 1-0 home defeat against Peru, who secured the points with a goal by Jose Pineda. It was Colombia's second successive defeat. They were without their banned Newcastle striker, Faustino Asprilla, who was sent off with Paraguay's goalkeeper, Jose Chilavert, in a fiery encounter earlier this month. It was Colombia's goalkeeper, Farid Mondragon, who let them in for the goal.

Paraguay made light of Chilavert's absence, moving six points clear at the top by beating Uruguay 3-1 in Asuncion.

Internazionale's Ivan Zamorano was in stunning form on Tuesday, scoring five times in Chile's 6-0 win over Venezuela.

Colombia's Carlos Valderrama (left) and Argentina's Daniel Passarella (right) battle for the ball during the World Cup qualifier in Bogota.

Cheltenham Town are the favourites to make it, but Gloucester City or even Halesowen Town, if they thrash Nuneaton, could claim the prize if Cheltenham slip up at Burton.

Argentina step up campaign

The nation that gave the world the tango may not, after all, be dancing in the dark when the élite emerge into the World Cup timeline in France next year.

Argentina are resuming their qualifying campaign with a 2-1 victory over Ecuador in Buenos Aires that lifted them into third place in the South American zone. The top four in a league involving all nations in the region will join the holders in the finals.

Ariel Ortega, the latest to follow in Diego Maradona's midfield footsteps, put Argentina ahead and Hernan Crespo, who displaced Gabriel Batistuta, made it 2-0. However, Ortega was overshadowed by his rival No 10, Alex Aguinaga, as Ecuador fought back. The 57th minute and then Eduardo Hurtado missed two good chances to equalise for Ecuador.

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FOOTBALL RESULTS

World Cup Group One

Denmark (2) 0 Slovenia (0) 0

Austria (4) 56 Spain (0) 0

Belgium (5) 22 Greece (0) 0

Greece (0) 0 Croatia (0) 0

Croatia (0) 0 Switzerland (0) 0

Switzerland (0) 0 France (0) 0

France (0) 0 Italy (0) 0

Italy (0) 0 Poland (0) 0

Poland (0) 0 Romania (0) 0

Romania (0) 0 Rep. of Ir. (0) 0

Rep. of Ir. (0) 0 Slovakia (0) 0

Slovakia (0) 0 Portugal (0) 0

Portugal (0) 0 Uruguay (0) 0

Uruguay (0) 0 Argentina (0) 0

Argentina (0) 0 France (0) 0

France (0) 0 Spain (0) 0

Spain (0) 0 Italy (0) 0

Italy (0) 0 France (0) 0

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France (

In bullish mood
Bradford's Steve McNamara talks to
Dave Hadfield, page 30

sport

Spinning a yarn
Ian Salisbury tells David Llewellyn about
his new life at The Oval, page 31

WORLD CUP England coach happy with victory in a match that 'needed to be won' and ascribes second-half slump to lack of 'juice'



David Beckham takes a corner for England against Georgia at Wembley on Wednesday night. His contribution was sound in a midfield that for periods struggled to contain the visitors' advances

Photograph: David Ash

Hoddle's rhetoric hides shortcomings

GLENN MOORE
Football Correspondent

Listening to Glenn Hoddle in the aftermath of Wednesday night's 2-0 World Cup qualifying win over Georgia made one wonder whether Peter Mandelson had been seconded to the Football Association's PR department.

The England coach gave a performance which Mandelson, New Labour's notorious spin doctor, would have been proud of. The bright young leader was constantly upbeat as he talked at length while saying little of note. Self-contradictions, inconvenient facts and unwelcome questions were brushed aside. Like his team it was effective, but hard to warm to.

Ince angered by snubs

Paul Ince yesterday hit back at suggestions that a number of leading Premiership clubs have changed their minds about signing him should he decide to leave his Italian club Internazionale this summer.

"You need a player like me if you are going to win League championships," Ince said after England's 2-0 World Cup win over Georgia. "I get livid when I hear or read that I've been snubbed by the likes of Arsenal, Newcastle, Liverpool."

Peter Hill-Wood [the Arsenal chairman] is saying that I'm 29 and past my sell-by date. Well, that's just crap. At 29 I'm reaching my peak and I'm play-

ing the best football of my career. I don't like it when I'm getting snubbed, as if to say I'm not a good player all of a sudden. I just stick my fingers up to the people saying that."

"But for Robert Coar [the Blackburn chairman] to come out and say the same sort of thing is the last straw. Let's be serious. You can tell him that he'd be lucky if I came to Blackburn, let alone them snub me. That's my message to him."

I won Premiership titles with Manchester United, Liverpool need to do that and it's the same with Arsenal. They need a player like me to achieve that."

"I'm fed up with all these snubs

The first goal was beautifully constructed and finished but similar chances were rare. More often, at times in the first half, and for 20 minutes at the beginning of the second, England's workman-like midfield could not stop Georgia from running through them at will.

Hoddle admitted he was "disappointed" by the second-half spell but explained: "That was partly due to Paul Ince. He had an injury at half-time and he was not quite functioning. He made some great runs in the first half and nearly ended up scoring a couple of goals. He makes things happen when he gets in the box. In the second half he was out at full throttle and couldn't do it. We ended up taking him off."

Hoddle did not take Ince off until 12 minutes from the end. Why not take him off earlier if his injury was affecting the team's potency? "He was handling it OK," Hoddle said. "I took him off after he took another knock on the same area."

One reply negates the other. If he was handling it, Ince's injury can hardly be used as an excuse for England's loss of control. Maybe there is more to it than that, like the lack of a midfield passer, such as Jamie Redknapp.

The inclusion of Rob Lee, rather than Redknapp or a flair player such as Steve McManaman, was Hoddle's choice, because "with Teddy Sheringham dropping off you can isolate Alan Shearer. Rob loves getting for-

ward from midfield. Macca does it with the ball; Rob does it with and without. You need that with Alan being marked tightly."

So McManaman cannot be played alongside Shearer and Sheringham. "I wouldn't say that," said Hoddle, who just had Lee justified selection. Like David Beckham and Graeme Le Saux he was prominent supporting the attack and some valuable defensive work covering for others underlined the strength of England's team spirit.

"The match needed to be won and we have done that," Hoddle said. Agreed. World Cup qualifiers are about points first and performances second. Hoddle has also been hampered by having to do almost all his team-building in competitive

games. This has made it harder to instil his ideas. Hence Hoddle's pleasure in working with players like Sheringham.

"Teddy is one of those players who remembers things on the training ground and does them when it is needed in games. In the last 10-15 minutes, when fatigue set in, Sol Campbell did not. He needs to concentrate in the latter stages."

As Campbell had a good game, within his limitations, and was the official man of the match such criticism could be interpreted as a way of preventing him getting carried away. If so it is a rare example of Hoddle using the press to get a point across. Usually he is far more circumspect, and is acutely aware of how comments can be

taken out of context. He also knows results will decide his destiny, not press conferences or playing performances.

Another win in Katowice will effectively secure England a place in the top two of Group Two. That would ensure that, at worst, they would have the chance to play-off for a place in next year's finals. Assuming they beat Moldova at home in September they may then qualify as the best-placed runner-up – at present they look to be on a par with Belgium and Yugoslavia.

A draw in Poland would probably be enough to secure second place but defeat could mean them needing at least a point in Rome in October. Not for the first time England's fate rests on the Poles.

ENGLAND WORLD CUP	ENGLAND UNDER 21
1 September 1990: Monaco 0-0	13 May 1997: France 1-1
3 Germany, Cologne 2-0	9 October, England 2-0
9 October, England 2-0	1 November, England 2-0
1 November, England 2-0	12 February 1997: (Wembley)
23 March, England 2-0	29 March, England 2-0
Fowler, Metz 0-0	Fowler, Metz 0-0
30 April, England 2-0	30 April, England 2-0
George, Monaco 0-0	George, Monaco 0-0

ENGLAND UNDER 21

1 September 1996: Monaco 0-0

3 Germany, Cologne 2-0

9 October, England 2-0

1 November, England 2-0

12 February 1997: (Wembley)

23 March, England 2-0

Fowler, Metz 0-0

30 April, England 2-0

George, Monaco 0-0

Robson a loser over keepers

SIMON TURNBULL

Middlesbrough's season is threatening to lurch from the sublime to the ridiculous. Following his latest defeat, another failed appeal to the Premier League, Boro's manager, Bryan Robson, is facing the possibility of using Neil Cox, a former England Under-21 right-back, as an emergency goalkeeper against Aston Villa at the Riverside Stadium tomorrow.

Robson's four goalkeepers are all on the injured list – Mark Schwarzer has a calf problem, Ben Roberts has a swollen arm, Gary Walsh is recovering from a knee operation and Alan Miller has a suspected broken hand – and he was yesterday refused permission to borrow a goalkeeper to help his relegation-threatened side through four League games in eight days.

A Premier League spokesman said last night: "The request has been turned down."

The position is perfectly clear. You can't sign players after the deadline and expect to play them in matches affecting the championship or relegation."

Robson said: "If you've got four goalkeepers out injured surely there's got to be a dispensation. As it stands, we'll just have to wrap Ben Roberts in

cotton wool. The player we've always said would go in goal in an emergency is Neil Cox."

Chelsea have, as expected, beaten off interest from Italy and Spain to sign the Uruguayan midfielder Gustavo Poyet. The 29-year-old international will go to Stamford Bridge on 30 June on a free transfer, under the Bosman ruling, when his contract ends with Spain's Real Zaragoza.

Ian Wright is in trouble with the Football Association again. The Arsenal striker has been summoned to Lancaster Gate as a result of comments he allegedly made to the referee, Mike Riley, at the end of Arsenal's 1-1 draw with Blackburn.

Jim Smith, Derby County manager, has made a £3.5m offer to Monaco for the French international Emmanuel Petit who can play left-back, centre-back or in midfield.

West Bromwich's chairman Tony Hale, may call on the club's former manager, Alan Buckley, to help to resolve a contract dispute with the striker Pan Peschisolido. The Canadian asked for a transfer this week claiming that Albion had broken promises made when Buckley signed him for £600,000 last summer. Buckley is summing up after being sacked by Albion in January and failing to get compensation.

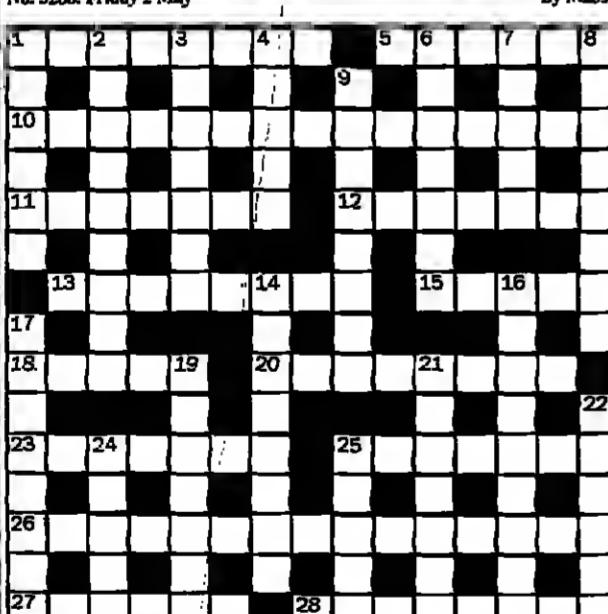
Polly Taylor

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3288. Friday 2 May

By Mass

Thursday's solution



- ACROSS**
- Royal service notable for the Queen's absence? (8)
 - Houses requiring offers for sale (4,2)
 - Variegated tinsel enhances, about right for decorations (7,8)
 - Head's harbouring religious belief (7)
 - This scot's a surgeon (7)
 - Cut left card on carpet (8)
 - Author put off mostly, absorbing none (5)
 - Iron mill (5)
 - Cracks unearthed from grasses round lake (8)
 - Waits, lavishes without measure (7)
 - Industrial body (English) after contract for plant (7)
 - Make a shady retreat? (8)
 - Slice of fish (a fillet) is on the way (6)
 - Traders supplying shears (8)
 - Business agent's particular (6)
 - Waste time on article in 'exclusive' (9)
 - Run, before a boundary (7)
 - Bundle from Spain in swindle (5)
 - New released record's first to be stocked (7)
 - Part of tackle, rod, cast over river (5)
- DOWN**
- Checked for faulty re-treads (8)
 - favoured fish with strong skin (9)
 - A spirit before joint's set up? (8)
 - Barney, roped in by bridge players, makes set (7)
 - Miss set, badly, with ball lobbed up and out (3,4)
 - Those who get going audibly in bars (6)
 - One to forge a thousand in rolled-up sheets? (5)
 - Freezer for resident (5)

'Lazy' Doherty gets his act together

Snooker

GUY HODGSON
reports from Sheffield

It has been a consistent answer whenever players have been asked who will win this year's Embassy World Championship at the Crucible. Stephen Hendry is mentioned, of course – you could hardly ignore him – but Ken Doherty is picked out as the man playing the best snooker.

"Ken looks as fresh as paint," John Parrott, the 1991 champion, said. "He's an exceptional match player who is not worried about Stephen or anyone which is the right way to be. I expect him to get to the final."

Doherty, the seventh seed, has to win the semi-final first and yesterday that was not a foregone conclusion by any means. At the end of the first session he and Canada's Alain Robidoux were level at 4-4 and a prolonged contest seemed to be

unfolding. Nevertheless, to be in the semi-final is an accomplishment for Doherty who was routed 6-1 by Steve Davis at the Benson and Hedges and Irish Masters and irritated his manager, Ian Doyle, so much last month he described him as "lazy".

Doherty has Hendry as one of his players and the six-times world champion would make Hercules seem idle, but the portraits for Sheffield were not promising. Davis was sorted out with a 13-3 win in the second round, while even the manager has been placated by his charge's sudden enthusiasm for work.

"I didn't know what 7.30 in the morning was," said Doherty, who spent four weeks before the World Championships practising seven hours a day with Ronnie O'Sullivan in Ilford. "Ian did have a point."

"He's a great manager and a good friend and I suppose I'm a bit of a lazy bastard at times. I have tried to change over the last few weeks and it's certainly paid off. I thought I was practising hard before but I was doing it a different way and maybe not so much."

Yesterday Doherty's star belief in "practice makes perfect" philosophy. His opening shot was an attempt to rest the white against the pack but he misread the speed of the table and his first action of the match was to give away four points for a foul.

Like Doherty, Robidoux, the 14th seed, is playing in his first World Championship semi-final and he looked anything but fazed by the occasion. Introduced as the "Montreal Magician" by Alan Hughes, the master of ceremonies, he did not exactly cast a spell but he did bave the upper hand for much of the session leading 2-1, 3-2 and 4-3 before the Irishman levelled with a break of 75.

What the score is between Darren Morgan and "Prince" Naseem Hamed is debatable but what began as the snooker player asking for the boxer to be removed from the press seats at the Crucible during his quarter-final with Hendry because he found Naseem's presence "intimidating" flowered into a full-scale fuss yesterday. Hamed, a close friend of

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